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Britain drafts new proposals on Rhodesia

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT: Salisbury, June 27

The British Government has drafted new proposals for consideration by Smith, after a rebuff last week when the Rhodesian leader rejected as unacceptable a Whitehall plan on majority rule.

The setback, which the British hope is temporary, came after swift progress had been made in preliminary talks. It is understood here that Sir Philip Adams, the senior British diplomat appointed to conduct the final round of talks before a summit, postponed his departure for Salisbury while Whitehall worked out new plans.

Sir Philip is expected to present these proposals to the Rhodesians on Tuesday.

Nixon lifts veto on British deal

From ADAM RAPHAEL: Washington, June 27

THE United States has finally agreed to approve sale of the most advanced British computers for \$10 million to the Soviet Union.

Sources say the agreement was reached after months of argument by British officials and an intervention of Mr Heath, who raised the vetoed sale to President Nixon during a US visit in December.

An announcement of the deal was made today, now its final stage of drafting is expected to be made within the next few days.

Details have been submitted to the NATO group, which has the responsibility of having the deal approved by the NATO group.

The Soviet Union first approached the British firm, International Computers, Ltd., more than a year ago to buy two 1908A third-generation computers for the Soviet Institute of High Energy Physics at Serpukhov, where Western scientists are allowed to participate in research projects.

In preliminary talks with the Soviet Union, British officials said they were assured the computers would be used only for civilian purposes and could be checked by British officials to make sure they had not been tampered with.

American representatives on Comcon objected to the deal, claiming that it would give Russian experts access to the most advanced magnetic disc memory systems that the Soviet Union has not so far been able to develop.

Pakistan decries British aid

From S. R. GHAMRI: Rawalpindi, June 27

Mirza Muzaffar Ahmad, President Yahya Khan's economic adviser, said today that Pakistan was able to do without British economic assistance.

An explanation of yesterday's Budget, he said that Pakistan's share of aid amounted to 7 per cent or about \$10 million, "We could do without \$10 million or more," he said.

Mr Ahmad had warned Pakistan might have to manage without it.

The Budget was welcomed by Pakistani newspapers as independently oriented, and Mr Ahmad asked Pakistan to produce a plan to save more, and export more.

Today's press conference, again emphasised that Pakistan would not let foreign pressure influence her domestic political situation. Asked which countries had tried to influence decisions he said that only Sir Alec Douglas-Home was linked with a political settlement of East Pakistan's crisis.

A Pakistani correspondent said: "When British aid is so small why can't we tell Britain to go to hell." Mr Ahmad referred to "doing without the \$10 millions" in his reply.

Mr Ahmad said that Pakistan was prepared to meet any situation which might develop as a result of foreign aid being suspended. "We have an alternative plan which will be revealed at an appropriate time."

The budget introduced measures to cut Government and private spending, reduce domestic consumption, increase exports, and conserve foreign exchange.

Pakistanis will now pay more for cigarettes and other goods and will not be allowed to build elaborate houses. Businessmen will be required to export more. Tax concessions for new industries have been suspended and the rich will pay more in duties.

Pakistan's immigration policy has been relaxed to allow Africans of Pakistani origin to invest in industry and employment will be found in foreign countries for unskilled, unemployed Pakistanis. All luxury imports are to be banned.

Aid suspended, page 3

JS Navy rebuffed by Malta

The Maltese Government has refused the United States request to allow US naval ships to visit Malta, the State Department said in Washington yesterday.

Malta has asked for a halt to visits "pending revision of arrangements," officials said. "We suppose that, in due course, they will tell us what they mean by that phrase."

United States and NATO ships in Naples yesterday joined silent protest against the growing dispute between the United States and the United Kingdom, after Mr Minster's reported expulsion of Gino Birindelli, aged 45, who is NATO's naval commander in the Mediterranean.

The admiral has not been seen in public view and is believed to be somewhere in Italy.

John Cunningham reports from Valletta, page 4



A dog-collar for the Archbishop... Dr Ramsey celebrating his 10th anniversary as Archbishop of Canterbury yesterday ordained seven priests and three deacons. After the service he bent to greet a dog which backed away leaving Dr Ramsey with the collar. Picture by E. Hamilton-West

Labour trying to avoid a split on Market

Labour's special conference on the Common Market next month is expected to be urged by its increasingly worried leaders to spend almost as much time discussing Conservative economic policies and the need for a general election as on the issue of the party's attitude to British entry into Europe.

Shadow Ministers and members of the party's national executive committee spent much of the weekend canvassing various formulas to avert an outright split on the Market, and to save pro-Market leaders from having to make a direct choice between Europe and the party.

Mr Wilson, who has been discussed in detail at Wednesday's emergency meeting of the executive committee.

Some senior party leaders had originally hoped that the special conference could be confined to a passive "take note" role with delegates spouting their views while Mr Wilson puffed his pipe and listened. But it is now almost universally accepted that the conference will have the power to take a direct vote if it chooses to.

The problem is therefore one of persuading delegates to vote in favour of a resolution, or an official policy document which provides the anti-Market leaders with sufficient to bite on without confronting the pro-Market leaders with a party line which is baldly opposed to entry into Europe in any circumstances.

One possible formula along these lines is already lying "on the table" in the name of Mr Anthony Wedgwood Benn. Its substance, which has already been circulated by Mr Benn to constituency parties and affiliated unions, is that the party should demand either a general election or a referendum before the Government takes Britain into Europe. Failing these, the conference should instruct Labour MPs to vote against entry.

Consultation

Mr Benn, a declared pro-Market leader who nevertheless believes that the people should be consulted, is urging his executive and Shadow Cabinet colleagues to recognise that such a formula would provide all but the most Euro-fanatical of the pro-Market leaders with the opportunity to vote with their party in the Commons without denying their ultimate belief in Europe. He is convinced that a call for consultation would at one and the same time rescue Mr Wilson from the embarrassment of inconsistency and save Mr Jenkins from having to pursue his conscience into the pro-Tory division lobby.

Some of the more firmly committed Europeans in the party were highly sceptical last night about Mr Benn's plan, not least because they do not share his enthusiasm for a direct, popular vote on the market in the current state of public opinion. But some of Mr Benn's converts remarked at the weekend that the beauty of his formula was that there was not the slightest likelihood that there would be an election or a referendum.

But many of the committed Europeans while not supporting Mr Benn's version, now accept that some kind of formula must be sought if the party is to be saved from a disastrous split, and its leader and deputy leader saved from political extinction. They are therefore looking more hopefully towards the Parliamentary Labour Party than to the national executive or the conference for a solution.

This might well involve Labour MPs in a deliberate decision to ignore a conference decision against British entry. But the hope of the pro-Market leaders is that MPs will be more

Turn to back page, col. 1

S. Africa to build Mirage fighters

Pretoria, June 27

Mirage fighter aircraft are to be built in South Africa under licence a spokesman for the State-owned Arms and Armaments Development and Production Corporation said today.

The chairman of the corporation, Professor Hendrik Samuels, said it has concluded an agreement for technical and industrial cooperation with the French.

According to the agreement the Atlas Aircraft Corporation — a subsidiary of the State corporation — would build supersonic Mirage 111 and F1 aircraft.

Professor Samuels would not say how many aircraft would be built in South Africa. But he added: "We are hoping to start preparations as soon as possible." The move was in line with policy outlined by the Defence Minister, Mr Pieter Botha, in Parliament last month.

The Minister told Parliament then: "Atlas has now developed such a capacity that serious thought must be given to the manufacturing of more advanced aircraft."

The Mirage 111 is already in service with the South African Air Force. — Reuters

Armed guard for Queen

By DEREK BROWN

Royal visit. We are in no fantasy. You will see."

The poor spelling and grammar have raised doubts that it really came from the Angry Brigade. Previous "communiqué" from the group, threatening assassination attempts on other public figures, have been correctly spelled and normally literate.

Nevertheless, the York and North-East Yorkshire police take the threat seriously. There will be more than 400 police on duty, although most will be on traffic and crowd control, and extra Special Branch men have been drafted in.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh are due in York late this morning. They will visit a children's display on the Knavesmire racecourse before riding through the streets of the city in an open carriage escorted by 60 men of the Household Cavalry. The visit is part of the celebrations of the 1900th anniversary of the founding of York.

The police said yesterday that there would be no alterations to the Queen's route. "There is nothing we could do except to cut out parts of the route, and that would destroy the whole object of the visit."

There were a number of places on the route which could be used for an assassination attempt, but these would all be checked "as far as possible." There was no more information about the writer of the note, said the police.

"The Special Branch probably know more about it than they are saying, but it is very unlikely they will have got anybody for it at this stage."

"If they do have the fortune to pick anybody up, they probably would not say anything about it until after the visit. If the note is genuine there would be more than one person involved."

Man shoots detective at bus stop

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

A young detective was shot at close range as he stood by a bus stop in King's Road, Reading, last night. He was taken to the Royal Berkshire Hospital, and was said to be seriously injured.

The incident happened as hundreds of police were in the town to cope with Reading's pop festival, but a police spokesman said that there was no connection between the festival and the shooting. People living nearby said they saw a young man in a blue denim suit get into a white car shortly after the shooting and drive away. Later a similar car was found burned out behind council houses at Routh Lane, Tilehurst—a suburb about 1½ miles from the scene of the shooting.

The shot detective was a married man with a young child.

All police reserves were called up to join in the search for the gunman, including some of the 550 covering the festival.

John Ezard writes from the festival: After arresting 115 young people in one of the biggest searches at a pop festival, Thames Valley police threw compliance to most of the 20,000 sullen but euphoric fans who stayed to the end of the three-day festival.

"Their behaviour was first class," said a spokesman for Mr Eric Gregory, assistant chief constable. "The figures speak for themselves—they show the great majority of people have not broken the law."

But Mr Gregory got no return bouquet from ADE, the festival's main underground medical and legal organisation. "The barriers, the security guards, and the incessant police presence have made this a much more unpleasant environment than the Glastonbury Festival. It has contributed a lot to some bad LSD trips," said Mr Guff Gorsuch, a Maudsley Hospital psychiatric nurse working as medical director in the ADE tent.

From the official side of the fence came a complaint that thousands of fans had gate-crashed the festival before barriers were erected on Friday. Mr Brian Somerville, a festival director for the sponsors, the Marquee Organisation, said: "We were bogged down in mud and the fences were not up in time. We are committed to costs of £50,000 and we will lose a lot of money, I think."

"I am angry with the people who got picked up with drugs and with the police for the way they cashed in on the fact I believe they cracked down here more than at previous festivals. This sort of publicity, blown up unfairly by the press, could kill."

Turn to back page, col. 5

Heath certain for Cup

THE PRIME MINISTER and his yacht, *Morning Cloud*, now seem certain to be selected to represent Britain in the international Admiral's Cup yacht races. He finished first overall yesterday in the final qualifying trial—the Le Havre-Royal Sovereign race.

Report, page 17

Butter up 1p

BUTTER PRICES will be going up again this week—probably by 1p a pound. This rise in retail prices was signalled by last week's jump in wholesale prices. On Sunday, milk retail prices will go up by 1p, making the ordinary pint 46p.

Gulf threat

AMIR ABBAS HOVEDA, Prime Minister of Iran, told an election rally in a Persian Gulf port yesterday that his country would use force to retrieve three islands in the Gulf, if Britain did not give them up voluntarily. The islands are Abu Musa, Bani Tanb, and Tanb-e-Ebozorg.

Up, up, up

THE AVERAGE family of three spent £28.57 a week on goods and services in 1970—£22.00, or 8 per cent, more than in 1969. Food bills went up by 46p a week.

Report, back page

40ft escape

A GIRL aged five fell 40ft from the bridge over the link road of the M6 at Warrington, yesterday. She escaped with slight cuts and bruises.

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OVERSEAS NEWS

Australian Minister keeps pot boiling in EEC controversy

By PATRICK KEATLEY, Diplomatic Correspondent

The deputy Prime Minister of Australia, Mr Anthony, accused Britain yesterday of "washing her hands" of all responsibility for the repercussions facing his country as the result of any British entry to the Common Market.

He was boarding his aircraft at London airport yesterday at the end of two weeks in Britain timed with the final round of negotiations. He had also visited

Court may give ruling today on Pentagon paper

From RICHARD SCOTT: Washington, June 27

The Supreme Court will resume tomorrow the hearings into whether the press may continue publishing the Pentagon papers on Vietnam. The court, which is about to adjourn for the summer, may give a final ruling.

Mr Daniel Ellsberg will surrender tomorrow in Boston where he lives. He was charged on Friday with being unlawfully in possession of secret documents, and a warrant was issued for his arrest.

Since he was named on June 16 by a former reporter of the "New York Times" as the man who provided the paper with its copy of a Pentagon report, Mr Ellsberg and his wife have been in hiding. The Pentagon is about to hand over its Vietnam study to Congress for confidential perusal.

On Saturday the Justice Department sought to convince the court that indiscriminate publication of further documents from the study would endanger troops in South Vietnam and prejudice the procedures for obtaining the release of prisoners.

The court's decision appears to rest on the judgment of one or two of the nine justices. Chief Justice Warren, Justice Black, Justice Douglas, Justice Brennan, and Justice Thurgood Marshall — all five of whom are in the majority — have been favourable to the press. The other four justices, Chief Justice Warren, Justice Black, Justice Douglas, and Justice Brennan, have been favourable to the government.

Most obscene dupery in history, Hanoi says

Hongkong, June 27
A Hanoi newspaper today praised the publication of the Pentagon secret documents on Vietnam, but said it was far more important to condemn the acts of the present Government than expose those of past Administrations.

The official newspaper "Nhan Dan" commented on the publication of the Pentagon documents in a commentary entitled "The most obscene dupery in history."

The commentary said: "It is necessary to condemn the vile acts of previous US Governments as exposed in the classified study, but what is far more necessary and urgent is to denounce, condemn and resolutely stop the odious acts of the current Nixon Administration aimed at fooling public opinion and thwarting the American people's interests."

Hanoi Radio and newspapers have previously issued extracts from the documents as published in American papers, but today's article is believed to be the first full commentary on the controversy.

The commentary added that the disclosures in the documents had shocked the world, but they were nothing new to the Vietnamese people.

Secretary, Sir Burke Trend.

Kissinger flies home

Mr Henry Kissinger, the American presidential adviser on security affairs, flew from Heathrow Airport-London, to Washington yesterday after his talks with the British Cabinet secretary, Sir Burke Trend.

He is expected to return to Washington tomorrow.

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King Faisal's approval a big success for Egypt

From David Hirst: Beirut, June 27

President Sadat has achieved another major success in the consolidation of his position at home and abroad. He has won the approval of King Faisal.

Since the June war, Egypt has been trying to harness Arab energies behind her strategy for a Middle East settlement. Any such grand design, to have a chance of success, needs the King's backing. Saudi Arabia does not compare with Egypt in military or economic strength, but King Faisal, with his oil wealth, Western backing, and absolute authority at home, has always been the natural rallying point of anti-Nasser forces in the Arab world.

He has always had means to break Egyptian pan-Arab ambitions. At the Khartoum summit in 1967, Nasser did get something from King Faisal in return for his withdrawal from Yemen. He obtained financial subsidies, and a free hand to work for a peaceful settlement within the narrow framework of "no conciliation; no negotiations; and no recognition."

But, with peace-seeking diplomacy, he has not been able to build up of Arab military strength and the money to do it. He made out that he was ready to do his part — provided that Nasser publicly and irrevocably abandoned the search for a peaceful settlement. But this Nasser could not do because he wanted Arab mobilisation, not for use on the battlefield, but for strengthening his diplomatic hand.

Where Nasser, with the mill-

stone of his virulently anti-Saudi past round his neck, failed, President Sadat, assisted by personal contacts in Saudi Arabia, has a much better chance of succeeding. During a week-long Saudi visit to Egypt, King Faisal has spent many hours with President Sadat and they appear to have covered the whole gamut of Middle Eastern problems.

Among these is the future of the Persian Gulf, where Egypt is bound to play an influential rôle. It is no doubt President Sadat's purpose to work out a common Arab approach, and leave it largely to King Faisal, who is most directly concerned, to carry it through.

The setting of all such secondary issues, although in this case a very important one, is a necessary clearing of decks for achieving a common policy on the one towering issue, the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Nothing is known of the details of the talks between the King and President, but judging from the unprecedented warmth of reciprocal sentiments expressed in the communiqué, they got on very well

— so well, in fact, that observers are already talking of a new era — Saudi-Egyptian friendship formed one of the basic axes of inter-Arab relations. President Sadat has gone out of his way to assure King Faisal that he has no intention of flatter King Faisal's professed belief that Arabs, in all they do, must draw inspiration from Islam.

In return King Faisal called on God to assist President Sadat in his "wise and thoughtful leadership." He proclaimed that "Egypt is bearing the main burden in the battle of Arab destiny, and is the solid rock on which the aims and ambitions of world Zionism and its expansionist policy will be shattered." He called on "Arab and Moslem States to support this steadfast fortress and strengthen it to carry out the mission which has fallen to it."

In the realm of general principle King Faisal seems to have been uncompromising. "There can be no lasting peace in the Middle East without the liberation of Jerusalem, all Arab lands, and the recovery by the Palestinians of their usurped rights."

The liberation of "all Arab lands," as opposed to just the occupied territories, could be taken to refer to the whole of Palestine. Nevertheless, King Faisal now appears ready to step up his backing for Egypt without exacting that public abandonment of the search for a peaceful settlement which he wanted from Nasser.

From this a great deal could flow, and not necessarily in the direction of peace. Egypt can expect substantial economic assistance from Saudi Arabia, certainly in the form of tourists and private investment, and perhaps of increased subsidies.

A Saudi-Egyptian effort to revive the "Eastern front" seems foreshadowed by the dispatch of two trouble-shooters to mediate between King Hussein and the guerrillas. Saudi Arabia — another reminder of the 1950s — is mending her fences with the Syrian Ba'athist regime which, until the downfall of Mr Salah Jadid, she held in the utmost contempt.

Colonel Gadhafi, the Libyan leader, will probably again try

to push his plan "for the Arabisation of the Gulf."

President Sadat might have been hoping for more — perhaps a Saudi-Egyptian denunciation of the United States. But what he obtained is all the more impressive in that it comes in the wake of the Egyptian "tre of friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union." King Faisal has praised the "leadership" of the man who concluded it. The President must have persuaded him that Egypt will not go Communist, nor be a bridgehead for Communist penetration of King's Arabian back yard.

It is another manifestation of President Sadat's skill, versatility in the past months that he has gratified "Egypt first" mood of people — and entered a tripartite union with Libya-Syria. He has carried through massive and implicitly Soviet purge of his own regime and has not allowed the Arab world to back him more often than ever. He has concluded the first Arab treaty with the Communist Power — struck up a close relationship with the most staunchly a Communist of Arab leaders.

Perhaps he is being clever. There are so many contradictory, delicately balanced elements in the edifice he is constructing it might be crashing down. But with Saudi-Egyptian entente he is inserting what could prove strongest pillar of all.

Christian act stops Paris traffic

From NESTA ROBERTS

Paris, June 27

OUR LADY'S Juggler, 171, presented his act to a breathless Paris just after breakfast yesterday. Philippe Petit, aged 21, is a tight-rope walker whose devotion to his art has earned him an award from the Foundation of the Vocations, a fund which exists to help young people to fulfil their ambitions or to develop their skills.

M. Petit developed his to a high degree, and decided it was worthy of a larger audience than the circus crowd. On Friday night he managed to conceal himself in Notre Dame after locking the door and making cover of dark. He stretched his wire between the twin towers of the facade 200ft. above ground.

High wire

Between 9 and 10 am on Saturday he stepped on to it and began a dazzling performance, not merely walking but sitting and lying on this highest of wires. Below, the crowd grew and traffic piled up. From the towers, firemen who had clattered up the spiral stairs, implored and exhorted, but to no avail. The tight-rope walker could handle most situations but this one was beyond them.

In his own good time, M. Petit made a final bow to the audience and came down. The police were waiting and his first stop was the commissariat. There were inquiries, but so far as is known no charge has been made, possibly because even the French legal system has no law in which proceedings can be taken against a tight-rope walker for stretching his wire between two of the fairest towers in Christendom.

Ballet on tour

Seventy members of the London Festival Ballet Company flew to Lyon yesterday to start a four-week European tour including Milan, Rome, Athens, and Cyprus.

Israelis hope withdrawal plan will be dropped

From WALTER SCHWARZ: Jerusalem, June 27

Reports that a dialogue between the Soviet Union and Israel is breaking out somewhere in the world have a "gram of truth," an informed Israeli source told me today. But he added: "All that has happened has been some very tentative and preliminary soundings."

Early this month the Russians dropped a hint that they would be prepared for a dialogue — but in a form that fell short of renewed diplomatic relations.

These hints were more than welcome to the Israelis, who did what they could to take matters further. The Israeli efforts were called "trial balloons" by Soviet diplomats at the United Nations this week-end — and it is a fair description.

The first balloon was sent up in Jerusalem a week ago by Mr Eban, the Foreign Minister. He told a meeting of religious American Jews: "I would not be surprised if, in the near future, the USSR tries to re-establish relations with Israel, which were cut off at the outbreak of the six-day war."

Mr Eban is not a man who uses words lightly, especially when he is "on the record." He added specifically: "Israel is prepared to stop mediating and to start helping Israel in earnest."

The more colourful rumours of meetings in Lapland during Mrs Meir's recent visit to Scandinavia, are untrue. Someone there at the time told me the day Mrs Meir and her friends spent in Lapland was the only time during her whole Scandinavian tour when she did nothing except relax.

Officials dismissed as "absolute nonsense" a report in today's "Ma'ariv," which quoted American diplomats at the United Nations as saying that Israeli contacts in Finland were continuing.

My informant emphasised that Israel had no interest in secret diplomacy with the Soviet Union. "If and when there are talks, the world will know that they are taking place." This is a bold pose of rumours that substantive talks have already taken place. But the balloons have not all been Israeli. For some weeks, Russians have been dropping semi-jocular hints to Israeli and American journalists at UN parties.

That soundings have been taken, and balloons flown, is in the logic of recent developments. As the Israelis see it, the last weeks have demonstrated the failure of American attempts at mediation, both between Israel and Egypt and between Israel and the Soviet Union.

The failure has been accompanied by so weighty an escalation of Soviet presence in Egypt that the Americans will soon be forced to stop mediating and to start helping Israel in earnest.

The Israelis hope and expect that the "Rogers plan" for an almost complete Israeli withdrawal will be quietly dropped. Ministers and senior officials expect that all or most of this will be the outcome of the reappraisal of policy taking place in Washington. They do not expect to stop mediating and to start helping Israel in earnest.

But it is early days. For the moment, the "Grain of truth" is in danger of being lost in a welter of American rumour mongering and Israeli wishful thinking.

The implication is that Egypt

no longer has the freedom of action to reach her own peace agreement with Israel. The Israelis have always shouted loudest against anything that might be an "imposed solution," but there are now signs that they are resigned to something like it.

Israeli disillusion with American mediation applies also to Israeli-Russian contacts. The shock of the phony missile standstill last August, to which the Americans erroneously thought they had obtained prior Soviet agreement, still rankles here.

For all this the implication is the same for Moscow as for Jerusalem: "Let's talk." For the Israelis, talking to Moscow seems a realistic substitute for the old, elusive dream of talking to Cairo. For the Russians, it apparently holds the glittering prospect of getting the Suez Canal reopened.

But it is early days. For the moment, the "Grain of truth" is in danger of being lost in a welter of American rumour mongering and Israeli wishful thinking.

Call for sports ban on 'sewer' river

From RICHARD SCOTT: June 27

In spite of all the talk about anti-pollution measures the river which runs through the heart of this nation's capital, the Potomac, is so dangerously filthy that residents have been warned to regard it "as an open sewer."

The head of the United States Environmental Protection Agency has urged that the Potomac should be banned for all forms of recreation — including water skiing and boating, as well as swimming and fishing. He complains that the public has not been adequately warned of the potential health risk from the excessive amount of human waste in the river.

A Georgetown University microbiologist, Dr Seney Falkow, who has been testing the river water, has said that the river is dangerously polluted at least as far as 20

miles upstream from Washington. He said he had found amounts of fecal coliform, a bacteria, in the water in this stretch of the river in amounts 20 times as much as was considered safe for water recreation.

In one stretch about six miles from the city centre, it was 200 times as much as the acceptable level. He said that people coming into contact with the river have "a significant risk" of contracting a salmonella infection and possibly typhoid fever.

The Washington city chief of public health engineering admits that 16 million gallons of untreated sewage overflow into the river daily at one point. He advises Washington residents to "treat the Potomac like an open sewer." Presumably this was a warning, rather than an invitation.

Test ban move by Britain

By our Diplomatic Correspondent

A British Minister is expected to fly to Geneva this week with a fresh initiative on a ground nuclear test ban.

This is the one category of nuclear weapons which the United States and Soviet Union negotiated a test ban treaty in 1963. It has been signed and ratified by many Governments.

The value of the treaty, however, has been dubious from start, since France refused to sign it and was carrying out explosions over the Pacific for many years. China is no signatory, and potential nuclear Powers like India and Pakistan have also not signed.

The British move, supported by Canada, is a plan for extending the treaty to impose a test ban on underground war tests. The Minister responsible for disarmament, Lord Loh, is expected to leave for Geneva tomorrow accompanied by advisers, including one of the British submission, on researches in several countries, will be that it is scientifically possible to distinguish between ordinary seismic disturbances and explosions below five-kiloton level.

Hitherto it has been considered impractical to do such a distinction with any degree of accuracy. Consequently there has been no meeting of minds on an independent check whether an underground explosion was nuclear.

The need for the international Court at The Hague deal with disputes between nations and individuals will be discussed by 4,000 lawyers at an international conference in London next month — the largest gathering of lawyers ever held.

At present the Court considers disputes between nations but not lawyers in Belgrade hold a demonstration based on the assumption that space vehicles have fallen on the ground next month — the cause of extensive damage, property and killing of foreigners. The American Justice, Warren E. Burger, is expected to be at the trial.

New Hague role?

The need for the international Court at The Hague deal with disputes between nations and individuals will be discussed by 4,000 lawyers at an international conference in London next month — the largest gathering of lawyers ever held.

TELEVISION

PANORAMA (BBC-1, 8.0) or "World in Action" (ITV, 8.0), then only a repeat between you and the sport-slot. It's the interesting "Family of Man" series that gets the second-look vote: this first of seven looks at birth-styles from Lancashire to the Far East (BBC-2, 9.20). Though Google Withers, Gwen Watford, June Barry might just bring style to Granada's country-house ("Seasons of the Year," ITV, 9.0). Then, the first Rugby Test from New Zealand, Glasgow of the South, plus Wimbledon (BBC-1, 10.10)

BBC-1 10.40 24 Hours: Ludovic Kennedy. 11.30-1.45 p.m. Ar Lin Mam. 6.45-8.15 Wales Today. 8.15-8.30 Headline. 8.35-9.15 Wimbledon. 9.15-9.30 Big Fish. 9.30-10.10 40 Ble Carach Chi Fynd. 11.42 Weather. Close. 1.30 Watch with Mother. 1.45 News. 1.53 Wimbledon Tennis. 4.45 Clangers. 4.55 Blue Peter. 5.20 Belle, Sebastian and the Horses. 5.44 Hector's House. 5.50 News. 6.0 London this Week. 6.15 Wimbledon Tennis. 7.15 Andy Williams Show. 8.0 Panorama: Mr Mandling—Common Market and the Economy. 9.0 News. 9.20 Brek. 10.10 The Spinners: with Sandie Shaw.

9.20 Family Man: Birth-family life from Colne to New Guinea. 10.10 International Rugby—New Zealand v. Great Britain: Match of the Day—Wimbledon Tennis. 11.25 News. 11.30 Late Night Line-Up.

ITV

LONDON (Thames). 1.25 p.m. Saharan Venture: Pipeline from Algeria to Canvey Island. 1.55 Eternal Forest: Forests of America. 2.0 People to People: Yugoslavia. 2.50 Romance: "The Miniver Story," with Greer Garson, Walter Pidgeon. 4.40 Hatty Town. 4.55 Lost in Space. 5.0 News. 6.0 Today: Eamonn Andrews. 6.20 Crossroads. 6.40 Opportunity Knocks! 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.0 World in Action. 8.30 It's Tarbuck. 9.0 Seasons of the Year. 10.0 News. 10.30 Name of the Game. 11.55 Survival in the City. ANGLIA—3.55 p.m. Anglia News. 4.0 All About Riding. 4.30 Romper Room. 4.35 Pippin. 5.15 Follyfoot. 5.30 News. 6.0 About Anglia. 6.40 Opportunity Knocks! 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.0 World in Action. 8.30 It's Tarbuck. 9.0 Seasons of the Year. 10.0 News. 10.30 Probs. 11.0 Randall and Hopkirk. 11.55 Big Question.

CHANNEL—2.10 p.m. Freud on Food. 2.35 Moviemem. 3.0 Edgar Wallace. 4.0 Once Upon a Time. 4.10 Puffin's Birthday. 4.30 Moment of Truth. 4.40 Woodlands. 5.15 Follyfoot. 5.30 News. 6.0 Clon neil News. What's On Where. 6.15 International Detective. 6.45 Opportunity Knocks! 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.0 World in Action. 8.30 It's Tarbuck. 9.0 Seasons of the Year. 10.0 News. 10.30 Road Safety Quiz. 11.0 University Challenge. 11.30 Viages de France. 11.45 Weather. Close.

MIDLANDS (ATV)—3.35 p.m. Tomorrow's Hobbies. 4.0 Women Today. 4.10 Peyton Place. 4.40 Origami. 4.55 Bush Boy. 5.15 Follyfoot. 5.30 News. 6.0 ATV Today. 6.40 Opportunity Knocks! 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.0 World in Action. 8.30 It's Tarbuck. 9.0 Seasons of the Year. 10.0 News. 10.30 University Challenge. 11.0 Who Knows? SOUTHERN—2.40 p.m. To Catch a Rhine. 3.10 Yoga for Health. 3.35 Tomorrow's Hobbies. 4.0 Women Today. 4.10 Peyton Place. 4.40 Origami. 4.55 Bush Boy. 5.15 Follyfoot. 5.30 News. 6.0 Southern Today. 6.40 Opportunity Knocks! 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.0 World in Action. 8.30 It's Tarbuck. 9.0 Seasons of the Year. 10.0 News. 10.30 University Challenge. 11.0 Who Knows? WEST & WALES (ITV)—2.30-4.0 p.m. State Visit to York. 4.5 Tomorrow's Hobbies. 4.13 Moment of Truth. 4.30 Women Only. 4.55 Woodlands. 5.15 Follyfoot. 5.30 News. 6.0 West & Wales. 6.45 Opportunity Knocks! 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.0

World in Action. 8.30 It's Tarbuck. 9.0 Seasons of the Year. 10.0 News. 10.30 Bold Ones. 11.30 Whittaker's World. Close. 12.15 a.m. Weather.

RTV WEST (As Above except)—4.4-8.8 p.m. Report West. 6.2-6.45 This is the West This Week.

RTV WALES—6.1-6.22 p.m. Y Dydd.

RTV CYMRU/WALES—6.1-6.22 p.m. Y Dydd. 6.2-6.45 This is the West This Week. WESTWARD—2.30 p.m. Westward News. 2.35 Moviemem. 3.0 Edgar Wallace. 3.35 Westward News. 4.0 Once Upon a Time. 4.10 Gus Honeybun Show. 4.20 Moment of Truth. 4.30 Woodlands. 5.15 Follyfoot. 5.30 News. 6.0 Westward News. 6.45 Opportunity Knocks! 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.0 World in Action. 8.30 It's Tarbuck. 9.0 Seasons of the Year. 10.0 News. 10.30 Road Safety Quiz. 11.0 University Challenge. 11.30 Faith for Life. YORKSHIRE—11.40 a.m. 12.45 p.m. York 100th Anniversary. 1.40 People to People. 2.0 York 100th Anniversary. 2.40 York for Health. 4.10 Calendar News. 4.15 Freud on Food. 4.40 Once Upon a Time. 4.55 Follyfoot. 5.30 News. 6.0 Calendar. 6.15 Old Couple. 6.45 Opportunity Knocks! 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.0 World in Action. 8.30 It's Tarbuck. 9.0 Seasons of the Year. 10.0 News. 10.30 York 100th Anniversary. 10.50 Strange Report. 11.45 Weather. Close.

RADIO

RADIO 4 330 m. VHF 6.25 a.m. News. 6.27 Farming Week. 6.45 Prayer for the Day. 6.50 Regional News. 7.0 Today. 7.40 Today's Papers. 7.45 Thought for the Day. 7.50 Weather. 8.0 News. Today. 8.40 Today's Papers. 8.45 Country Calendar. 8.50 News. 9.5 Study on: More than Learning a Skill. 7.0 Language in Your Briefcase. 7.30 Haydn and Mussorgsky: Piano recital. 8.15 Delius: Mass of Life, part 1. 9.0 Life part 2. 10.20 Mass of Life part 2. 10.20 Marius Goring. 11.0 Jazz in Britain. 11.30 News. 11.35 Close.

RADIO 2 1,500 m. VHF News: 5.30 a.m. 6.0, 6.20, 7.0, 7.30, 8.0, then every hour on the hour until 2.0 p.m. 2.0, 2.10, 2.20, 2.30, 2.40, 2.50, 3.0, 3.10, 3.20, 3.30, 3.40, 3.50, 4.0, 4.10, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 5.0, 5.10, 5.20, 5.30, 5.40, 5.50, 6.0, 6.10, 6.20, 6.30, 6.40, 6.50, 7.0, 7.10, 7.20, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.0, 8.10, 8.20, 8.30, 8.40, 8.50, 9.0, 9.10, 9.20, 9.30, 9.40, 9.50, 10.0, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 10.50, 11.0, 11.10, 11.20, 11.30, 11.40, 11.50, 12.0, 12.10, 12.20, 12.30, 12.40, 12.50, 1.0, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 1.50, 2.0, 2.10, 2.20, 2.30, 2.40, 2.50, 3.0, 3.10, 3.20, 3.30, 3.40, 3.50, 4.0, 4.10, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 5.0, 5.10, 5.20, 5.30, 5.40, 5.50, 6.0, 6.10, 6.20, 6.30, 6.40, 6.50, 7.0, 7.10, 7.20, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.0, 8.10, 8.20, 8.30, 8.40, 8.50, 9.0, 9.10, 9.20, 9.30, 9.40, 9.50, 10.0, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 10.50, 11.0, 11.10, 11.20, 11.30, 11.40, 11.50, 12.0, 12.10, 12.20, 12.30, 12.40, 12.50, 1.0, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 1.50, 2.0, 2.10, 2.20, 2.30, 2.40, 2.50, 3.0, 3.10, 3.20, 3.30, 3.40, 3.50, 4.0, 4.10, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 5.0, 5.10, 5.20, 5.30, 5.40, 5.50, 6.0, 6.10, 6.20, 6.30, 6.40, 6.50, 7.0, 7.10, 7.20, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.0, 8.10, 8.20, 8.30, 8.40, 8.50, 9.0, 9.10, 9.20, 9.30, 9.40, 9.50, 10.0, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 10.50, 11



Mexico City, June 27
A POLITICAL thriller which could change the course of Mexican history is in the making as official investigators probe the paths that led to bloody events here on June 10 — already known as "The Corpus Christi Massacre."

At least 11 young student demonstrators — and perhaps more than twice that number — met their deaths at the hands of squads of gun-toting, club-wielding right-wing youths on the streets of Mexico City.

The only certainty now is that the whole affair is far more mysterious than it first appeared.

The actual events are clear-cut. Just before 5 p.m. on June 10, the day of Corpus Christi, 3,000 students from the capital's colleges and the autonomous university set off to march three miles to the city centre.

Their demands were varied and confused, including "Free the political prisoners" — all but 28 of whom were already out of gaol — and "Down with the bourgeois educational reform" (which is still being prepared by the Ministry of Education).

About a third of the students were girls. The march had hardly moved half a mile when it was confronted by a group of riot police with tear gas guns and shields.

The senior police officer on

the spot told a leader of the demonstration that it could not continue because it was unauthorised. The riot police then stood aside to let the marchers proceed.

They had crossed another intersection and were already swinging down a major avenue leading to the city centre when the attack came. At several points in the area grey buses drew up and from them poured dozens of youths in sweaters, jeans, and plimsoles, waving bamboo staves and car-bines.

Some were seen to talk to officers of the riot police — several hundred of whom were on the spot — before opening fire on the solid phalanx of defenceless students. Hours of terror and disorder followed as the youths took over the area, while police apparently stood by without intervening.

Bystanders and journalists did not believe their eyes. For in his seven months of office President Echeverria had worked hard to win back the confidence of the nation's restless students, bitter over

what they consider was the bloody suppression of a 1968 protest movement.

Everything the President had said and done since taking office in December, 1970, was opposed to the public brutality taking place with open cynicism before hundreds of witnesses.

The next morning, the President met Mexican and foreign journalists, many of whom had also been assaulted by the shock groups which the local press identified as a paramilitary force known as "The Falcons."

But three days went by and two statements issued by the Attorney-General's office left no doubt that the ground was being prepared to blame the students themselves. Sources close to the President indicated clearly that he was under strong pressure to give up thoughts of a real investigation.

On Tuesday, June 15, the President attended a rally in

By Robert Evans

the capital's central square, called ostensibly to support him and his policies. But almost all the banners held high before his gaze appeared aimed also at blaming the student marchers for the June 10 disorders.

Señor Echeverria read a carefully worded but passionate speech in which he declared he would not allow "a handful of irresponsibles" to spoil his work.

That afternoon, the President lunched in his official residence with a group of foreign pressmen. He professed belief in the existence of The Falcons, whose existence had been denied by the mayor of Mexico City and implicitly by the first official report on the investigation.

They were, the President said, "mercenaries connected with the authorities." He indicated that these authorities were only inferior in comparison with his own rank.

mayor and the capital's police chief handed in their resignations "to clear the way for the investigation."

Now the investigators appear to have a freer hand. They are ploughing through archives in city hall in search of evidence that The Falcons were — as has been freely alleged — on the municipal payrolls in the disguise of street sweepers and sanitary workers.

But people are asking: who was really behind them? A gradual picture seems to be emerging of a group of conservative politicians and some police officials opposed to the President's reforming policies and in particular to his "softness" towards the students and other left-wing elements.

Señor Echeverria, it is understood, had given orders that the march should be allowed to continue unimpeded. He had also some days before taken a decision which almost certainly

An injured student being carried to safety during the riots in Mexico City



Tourists in emergency

A Yugoslav chartered DC9 flying home 112 Dutch holiday-makers made an emergency landing at Brnik Airport near Ljubljana on Saturday after bursting a tyre on takeoff from

the Yugoslav lakeside resort of Ohrid. A Russian-built chartered airliner crashed at Rijeka Airport, Yugoslavia, on May 23, killing 78 people, 72 of them British nationals.

London talks this week on Mintoff demands

From JOHN CUNNINGHAM: Valetta, June 27

First indications of the terms under which NATO will be allowed to stay in Malta — almost certainly without Admiral Birindelli, the organisation's naval commander in Southern Europe — will emerge this week.

Mr Mintoff, the island's new Prime Minister, means to be master of his own harbours. As well as this naval reckoning, preliminary talks will start on Mr Mintoff's other demand — a revision of the island's defence and financial arrangements with Britain. The High Commissioner, Sir Duncan Watson, is flying to London to see Sir Alec Douglas-Home, probably on Wednesday.

Unclear

It is still unclear if the admiral — regardless of whether he left at the toe of Mr Mintoff's boot — will be returning, even to collect his bags. He interrupted his leave in Rome yesterday for an interview in Naples with General Horatio Riva, the group's Supreme Commander in Southern Europe.

Italian Government sources, minimising Mr Mintoff's dislike of their country which dates from the Second World War, are saying that he is getting at NATO rather than Italy or Birindelli. Not surprisingly at the organisation's headquarters here the word is that the dis-

pute is entirely a personal one between Prime Minister and admiral and does not affect NATO's position here. It is pointed out that Birindelli's successor will automatically be an Italian.

Admiral Birindelli's politicking has annoyed Mr Mintoff. He called for more aircraft on the island and for the extension of a runway shortly after being appointed last October. This is anathema to Mr Mintoff whose aim, having got the colonists' hands off the island's neck, now wants to get NATO's foot off the small of its back.

Mixed in with this is the Prime Minister's Italianophobia which goes back to Mussolini. Signs of this were heightened during this month's elections by the Nationalists pro-Italian poli-

tics. The fears, though archaic, are shared by a segment of the party's brand of socialism is its criticism of the present Government that it has not moved since the thirties. It is self-centred and owes nothing to the international Left.

This is already showing itself in the first "friendly" days of Mr Mintoff's regime though the trauma of dismissals and reappointments may be over. Mr Mintoff is trying to steer Malta away from the talons of the major Powers to which she has long been prey.

At the same time, he is trying to remain open to offers. Thus, this week, a US des-

trover, McCard, and units from the Libyan Navy are arriving on a courtesy visit. No date has yet been announced for the visit of the Russian ambassador in London, Mr Smirnovsky, who is accredited here.

The range of this collection of would-be diplomatic buddies suggests that even Mr Mintoff is not sure where he stands in the long term. His declared search for neutrality will take him. Volatile he may be, but at least he is looking to Britain for increased economic aid as part of a revised defence treaty.

Mr Mintoff's case for this, as it will be conveyed to the Foreign Secretary, will certainly require a substantial increase in the present aid figure, which averages £5 millions a year.

Hosannas

But today at least, clauses and agreements blur into a sunny haze as thousands in Valetta celebrate the M.L.D. victory. Mr Mintoff, who right now seems to have the party in the palm of his hand, smiles inscrutably as he acknowledges the Hosannas, like an island prophet come home to roost.

● In London, Mr Healey, Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, said on BBC radio yesterday that one answer to Mintoff's "blackmail" might be to neutralise Malta. He thought Mr Mintoff was essentially trying to do what Malta's last Prime Minister did — to force Britain to pay as much as possible for the facilities she has there.

"I think the talk about neutrality and possibly inviting the Russians in an attempt to blackmail Britain into paying for the facilities that they are worth," he said.

The military facilities Malta could offer were "not terribly important" to Britain or NATO. It was the threat of offering them elsewhere which was the only bargaining basis.

Farming call by Pompidou

From NESTA ROBERTS

Paris, June 27

President Pompidou said at the weekend that the entry of Britain into the Common Market would offer French agriculture an opportunity to which it must be ready.

Speaking at Saint-Florent in his native Corsica, he told farmers of Britain were Europe's greatest importer of foodstuffs. He urged them to increase production and quality. "In every country the risk is not in abundance, but in penury."

Measures for administrative decentralisation would be put under way in the autumn, the President added. They would involve setting up in each region a consultative council, in which the Committee for Regional Economic Development and an assembly of elected representatives of various departments which would be concerned particularly with regional equipment.

The Prime Minister, M. Chaban-Delmas, today gave the closing address at the UDR majority party's national council at Dijon. His previous relations with the body, which regards him as dangerously liberal, and at once too tolerant and too audacious, have been difficult. Today he was applauded for saying that the UDR was continuing General de Gaulle's mission of liberalising the energies of the country, unifying its will for ensuring the independence of France, preserving freedom, and reinforcing justice.

Perception and dialogue were part of the plan, which must take time. A programme of participation in industry and in economic affairs would be announced in the autumn. "Socialism does not belong to the parties of the Left," he said. "Socialism is the experiment of the UDR, and time is on our side. We are modern France."

Japan taking over Okinawa defence

From SELIG S. HARRISON: Tokyo, June 27

Japan has agreed to take over responsibility for the "immediate defence" of Okinawa after the return of the island under an agreement with the United States.

The defence agreement has been a political storm centre in Japan and was deliberately kept separate from the overall reversion agreement. Both Okinawans and substantial elements of public opinion here view the projected role of the Japanese forces on Okinawa as symbolic of a growing militarist revival.

Informed sources confirm that the draft agreement envisages the assignment of ground, air, and maritime self-defence force units of 3,200 men within six months after reversion. By July 2, 1973, Japan has agreed to provide an additional "appropriate" number of supporting troops for surface-to-air missile defences and the operation of aircraft control and warning systems.

The agreement provides for Japan to take over three Nike-Hercules surface-to-air missile batteries now operated by the US as part of its air defence commitment. This is a major focus of controversy because the Nike-Hercules is a missile that can carry nuclear weapons.

Another controversial aspect of the Japanese defence plans is the announced intention to operate 11 patrol boats carrying three-inch guns and 40mm machine-guns over a 10,000 square mile area embracing the southern defence perimeter.

Since these maritime patrols will cover the disputed Senkaku Islands lying between Chinese territory by Peking and Taipei alike, this patrolling is expected to have a delicate

effect on Japan's relations with China and Taiwan.

The US has administered Senkaku as a part of the Ryukyu chain since the Francisco peace treaty and returning the islands to Japan under the reversion agreement. American officials say that merely restores the status that existed before the treaty and does not commit the US in the territorial dispute between China and Japan.

Japanese Foreign Ministry sources note that the US planning to seek permission to use two bombing ranges on Senkaku after reversion: contend that this amounts to US support for the Japanese claim. — Washington Post.

Voters not interested

Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic (Conservative) Party took an early lead in electing for the Upper House of Parliament yesterday that products of the lowest voter turnout in Japanese history.

Although, by late evening officials still had not produced final figures, the Ministry Home Affairs believed the turnout would be below 60 per cent. Poor weather and general apathy were the major factors. — Reuters.

Italy's 160,000 hotel workers yesterday declared a three-nation strike starting Thursday, two days after a five-day walkout which caused chaos for hundreds of thousands of tourists.

decision came after management had rejected a pay promise drawn up by the Labour Minister in trying end months of agitation.

Hotels strike

PERSONAL

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6-DAY ACTING COURSES starting July 12, 19, 26, 30, 31, 1973. Write to: 6-DAY, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200.

I AM A SMALL ATTRACTIVE GIRL with bags of personality. Will come to you for a date. Write to: I AM, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200.

"VOLUNTEERS WITH GO. Energy and imagination needed for North South-West Summer Project. Write to: VOLUNTEERS, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200.

PREGNANCY TEST BY LADYCAR. Send or bring (3-6 Mon-Fri) sample and £5. Result by return or telephone. Write to: PREGNANCY, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200.

FRIENDSHIP/MARRIAGE CENTRE. Estab. 1964. Educated people specialise in personal dating. Write to: FRIENDSHIP, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 14

MOTORING GUARDIAN

LETTERS

The thoughts of Chairman Stokes

LORD STOKES'S rambling eulogy (Guardian, June 21) was yet another contribution to the tedious and fatuous debate about car design and safety. The very construction of cars today is dictated by economics.

The Mini is cited as an example of a safe car, one which I would have thought fundamentally unsafe with its subframe at front and rear construction, and minimal strength body, which would certainly "crumple on impact" (a virtue in modern cars which manufacturers extol), but would be unfortunately likely to take the occupants with it in such an unhappy event.

Much of the inadequate safety legislation is the product of a misdirected social conscience. Non-projecting switches and safety glass rear view mirrors, examples of the current mumbo-jumbo ideas on car safety, are of little value in a fundamentally puny vehicle.

The legislators will have to clamp down on the manufacturers over a much wider field of car construction. If they are genuinely concerned with car safety, and not only with appeasing the recently generated concern. The legislation will have to take the form of laws concerning the size and strength of fundamental components, such as brake pipes, which are subject to corrosion, steering components, box sections, and other load-bearing parts, so that the structure will be more rigid, both initially and in the long term.

The old argument about cost just will not work any longer for the additional expense would be minimal (perhaps it could be offset by purchase tax reductions, so there would be no excuse at all). In any case, other legislation, though mainly pathetically inadequate and ineffective, has increased cost already for little positive return.

Lord Stokes dismisses as rubbish the idea that cars are not made as they used to be, but it does not take great perception to realise that this is not wholly the truth of the situation, with a lack of technical refinement in many areas bordering on base crudity, the construction of the average modern car is often shoddy and potentially lethal.—Yours faithfully,

Maurice Gleeson,
28 Willow Road,
Prestwich, Manchester.

LORD STOKES'S references to Renault call for correction and clarification. While the Regie Renault have purchased certain body pressings from a division of BLMC, there is no question that BLMC "make a lot of cars for Renault"—they do not make any!

The question of which car—the Maxi or Renault 16—is better value for money is one, very largely, of personal opinion. However, it is a fact that since its introduction, 28,072 Renault 16s have been sold in the United Kingdom. Further, up to the

end of May, 1971, the total of Maxis (1500 and 1700 cc) and Renault 16 cars registered in the UK was 19,413. The Renault 16's share of this total was 21 per cent, or 4,095 units.

In total, the Regie Renault has produced more than 825,000 Renault 16s and the current daily production is over 900. Obviously a lot of people consider that the Renault 16 is good value for money.—Yours sincerely,

A. Dakers, Publicity and Marketing Manager,
Renault Limited,
Western Avenue,
London W3 0RZ.

Nader and car safety

IN YOUR leading article "Cars: a double standard?" (June 7), you give the impression that Nader is justified in his tirade against the lack of safety measures in British cars. But you ignore (or is it just overlook?) the two fundamental differences in the conception of safety between American and British (and European) manufacturers. Americans concentrate on minimising injury when an accident occurs, whereas the British and Europeans design their cars to be safer to drive and thus prevent accidents from happening.

For example, the Americans are only just beginning to give their cars good road-holding characteristics—these include braking efficiency, accurate steering, properly designed suspension, and adhesion. Even today on some models expensive ones at that, the brakes are shocking and the ride is so uncomfortable that it is a wonder that the Americans seem incapable of designing comfortable seats, thus leading to fatigue and danger. American engines and automatic gearboxes are excellent, and it's just too bad that they can't design a roadworthy car into which to put them.—Yours faithfully,

G. Richard Parkes,
258 Rue du Moulin,
Tewkesbury, Quebec,
Canada.

Radial tyre mystery

YOUR REPORT (Guardian, June 22), was of great interest to me since I have recently and expensively been involved in the "Radial" tyre mystery. Having had a knife through one front tyre (in Llandudno—not Liverpool), I also had to buy two tyres. The originals were apparently Textile-Braced Michelin X's—whereas now they only make Steel Braced Michelin X's—and as you make clear you cannot mix X plus X's.

In spite of algebraic principles—which seem to be unknown to the Michelin Company—and are NOT indicated in their advertising material, I also now have a spare tyre (car wise) which cannot be used on the front axle.—Yours sincerely,

(Miss) B. Jones,
92 New Ferry Road,
Bebington, Cheshire.



Right: John Burnell with a pupil on the skid pad at Thurston. Below: Michael Dashwood.



Don't think you know it all by IAN BREACH

SOMETIME during today 2,000 people will tell their wives, their husbands, their mothers, and their fathers, "I've passed!" For all but a remarkably cool minority, the rest of this week will be spent in a state of exhilaration and disbelief as they recall the blunders they made, and how they were quite convinced the examiner was going to fail them, and how he nearly went through the screen when they stamped on the brakes for that emergency stop. It won't be long before they've forgotten his parting remark as he filled in the pink slip and smiled. "Now you can really start learning, Mrs. Jones," or the admiring father who, clasping his son on the back and says, "Don't think you know it all, lad."

The great majority will know very little about driving at all. Half of them, having passed at their first attempt, will have a few months' experience of their car and an acquaintance with the roads that goes no deeper than the local test route. Their ability to control the car will be arguably no greater than that of the ones who pass only on the second or third occasion; for the test itself is probably a measure of exasperation rather than competence to drive. So the young, bouncy, impulsive, and potentially menacing driver stands a higher chance of success than the passive and temperate 40-year-old who has long ago forgotten how to face examination. But drivers (and inevitably, passengers) of the 20-24 age group have a deaths-and-serious-injury rate twice that of the 40 age group. The Department of the Environment no longer pretends that the test—unchanged in format in its 36 years of existence—is adequate. It can only say that the numbers to be tested make radical improvement unlikely and impracticable.

Is it? This year, the total economic cost to Britain of all road accidents will be around £250 million—the Department's own estimate of expenses involved in lost output, police, and hospitalisation, medical, and funeral fees, and damage to vehicles and property. It is obvious that the community can afford this less than it could the cost of putting driver training, instruction, and education on a footing at least equal to the one it requires for the passing of "O" level Latin.

The registration of driving instruc-

tors, which became law in October last year, really did nothing but formalise the right little tight little understanding that exists between the driving schools and the Department's test centres. I am sure, for instance, that official British School of Motoring policy would not be to advise learners drivers against wearing their seat belts, but I have had at least three reports of BSM instructors saying something like: "Oh, I shouldn't bother with those: it's got nothing to do with the test."

So the pupil passes his test without having to park a car between two others, without being able to reverse for more than a few yards without distress. He hasn't a clue what to do in a skid, has virtually no experience in overtaking a moving vehicle at any appreciable speed, would probably close his eyes and pray if the footbrake failed, and continually makes minor and sometimes serious errors of judgment. The result is that an enormous number of accidents take place involving a driver with less than six months' experience.

A safer future

The impetus for improvement of this situation comes from a few individuals outside the official ring. Apart from projects like the BRL-financed and RAC-supported study into driver training at Salford, it is with men like Michael Dashwood that the hopes lie for a safer future on the roads. Last year, Dashwood, a 38-year-old ex-sales manager, sunk his savings into a driving school and skid control centre at the Thurston race circuit in Hampshire. The driving school and the weekly racing school are purely private ventures; for the skid school, Dashwood has the help and sponsorship of Pirelli, Ford, and BP, who supply tyres, cars, and some of the fuel used.

The specialist aims of Dashwood's skid control centre have attracted the greater attention: company representatives from IBM and Watney Mann have used it, and many motorists seeking advanced tuition have come to drive on the specially built and treated skid pan—a dangerously sloped asphalt area coated liberally with used engine oil and kept permanently wetted. Together with his partner John Burnell, Dashwood can teach a

driver in a surprisingly short time every conceivable manoeuvre there is for getting out of trouble in a skid situation (the cause of one in every seven accidents). But it is Dashwood's attitude to making sure that drivers don't find themselves in that situation in the first place, and the part this plays in his policy of instruction of the skid pan that one finds most encouraging.

Michael Dashwood exudes concern and enthusiasm for safe driving: unlike most instructors I have met, he enjoys driving too, whether it is doing slow manoeuvres in the cone of vision, driving round the Thurston circuit at 30 mph, or shifting with precise and practised ease through the gears at high speed on the main roads round Andover. I have seldom met a driver, outside racing, who is so conscious of his car and its environment and so obviously in control. Passionately interested in pre-driver training, he has communicated this manner to the parents of several hundred school-boys, who are now being put through the centre.

At the moment, these boys come mainly from public schools—Marlborough, Winchester, Eton, and Harrow, but there are hopes that secondary-school pupils from Andover will soon be able to take part. The difficulty, as always, is of convincing education authorities that the ability to drive safely is at least as important as being able to get the right sort of job or university degree. Parents, says John Burnell, take a much more immediate attitude: "They really don't want a late-night telephone call six months after Johnny starts driving, asking them to come to hospital and see him dying."

So Johnny learns something about what makes cars go: he is taught how to make them stop; the mystique of driving is discouraged; he takes the car out on his own—on the circuit or on the skid pan—long before the day he is legally entitled to go unaccompanied on the public highway. The first of the 15-year-olds to have gone to Thurston will be taking their tests this autumn and next spring: Dashwood characteristically guarantees nothing, but it seems obvious to an outsider that their £15 fee for the instruction will leave them incomparably better prepared for driving than

the vast majority of young eager-to-be motorists.

Other pupils include members of the Institute of Advanced Motorists, whose chief examiner, George Eyles, is a staunch supporter of the Thurston venture and an outspoken critic of driver training. Eyles and Dashwood are both advocates of the restricted licence—a post-provisional licence operating for a year after the passing of the test: indeed, Eyles's views on the "R" licence led to its introduction in Ireland following successful operation in France and New Zealand. Another idea which Eyles has considered is the abolition of the conventional test and the introduction, instead, of a system whereby the instructor issues an "end of term" report on the candidate's ability and recommends whether an "R" licence should be granted.

A central organisation

All these and many other suggestions have been discussed at length, but still there is no prospect of change from the DoE—and the primary cause of accidents remains the man behind the wheel. Dashwood believes that a central organisation for driver training could help to solve the problem: his efforts at Thurston, although financially shaky, have proved such a great practical proposition that he now wants to expand by opening a national driving centre (he is also about to run another skid control school at Crystal Palace in South London). Having inspected a large suitable site close to the M1 in the Midlands, he is looking for sponsorship.

There is no reason why it should not get off the ground, but I fear slightly for its prospects if sponsorship is restricted to a few manufacturers. Far better for its image as a national institution if all the major car manufacturers chipped in to help, together with other tyre firms and accessory makers: all of them profess a concern for safety, and it could hardly break them financially to put funds behind such a project. But far better would be some sign that the Government was remotely interested: no taxpayer, I believe, would begrudge it a few new pence of his taxes to make better drivers of us all.

Children forget their ills

By our own Reporter

DISABLED children are cast off their calipers and riding on horseback, shooting with bow and arrow from trolleys, canoeing, swimming, and fishing.

Formal exercises are now seldom prescribed for them, according to a pamphlet issued by the Department of Education and Science, outlining physical activities at 12 special schools.

It says: "For them, as for other young animals, free and active movement is as necessary for health and development as fresh air, sunshine, suitable food and ample sleep." The adventurous activities are designed for children who have been restricted by over-protection or the frustration and pain caused by ill-coordinated movements.

The schools visited by Her Majesty's Inspectors were now admitting the more severely handicapped children who have previously been kept in hospitals or at home. The most frequent disability was cerebral palsy. Other children suffered from spina bifida, accident injuries, muscular dystrophy, haemophilia, and congenital defects such as heart disease.

Children were encouraged swim, using ramps or hoists to enter the pool. Those with paralysed legs whizzed about on trolleys, racing or playing team games. The paralysed had also taken to the saddle, even though two or three helpers were necessary for safety.

One school had stocked a trout stream. Campfires were organised, and some children entered the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

(Physical Education for the Physically Handicapped, Stationery Office, 40p)

MP seeks tour cover

Travel agents or tour operators should pay compensation if they cancel a holiday and offer an alternative on a different date, says Mr Edward Milne, Labour MP for Blyth.

Today he is due to ask the Secretary for Trade and Industry in the Commons if he will introduce legislation to prevent holidaymakers suffering loss after they had paid either the deposit or the full charge.

Army bomb squad faces growing Ulster menace

By SIMON HOGGART

There have been 163 terrorist bomb explosions which have caused positive damage in Ulster this year. The damage ranges from a few smashed shop windows to the tragedies of people like Sergeant Michael Willets, the soldier who died saving a family from the blast of a suitcaseful of gelignite.

The bombs come in dozens of shapes and forms. An office worker notices a rolled-up newspaper with two suspicious wires sticking out, or a policeman stands a little too close to an electricity transformer. After the report comes in, the job is taken over by the men who have perhaps the most unpleasant job in Ulster—the British Army's EOD squads.

EOD stands for Explosive Ordnance Disposal. There are 30 in Northern Ireland trained in this delicate art, all members of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, all taught at the Army School of Ammunition at Bromley Kent. They are in the army's highest-paid trade.

Mock bombs

The men who are led by Major George Stiles, senior ammunition technical officer at the Northern Ireland headquarters in Lisburn. Bombs have become almost a hobby as well as a profession for Major Stiles. He makes mock bombs in his spare time—a clear tin which would go off when the lid was opened, the chocolate box with a timing device connected to two one-pound sticks of gelignite.

"You need a very special type of man to work in bomb disposal," Major Stiles said. "He has to be practical and nimble with his fingers, but he also needs a lot of brains, because there is a fair amount of science involved. He needs

courage, too, but not of the 'follow me chaps' variety. He needs a good deal of caution."

As soon as an explosion is reported or a bomb discovered, one of Major Stiles's squads, usually an officer and two men, go out immediately. Police seal off the area, and a nasty 20-minute period follows while the EOD men search every corner of the building or block. Occasionally they find something, and the EOD men can hear soldiers, police, and spectators moving clear while they are left alone with whatever the thing might be.

"We're reaching a new escalation in the bombing," Major Stiles said. "At first these terrorists just threw a bomb with a short fuse detonator, or they wired it to a simple timing mechanism. Now they are tending to sit a hundred yards away with wires leading from the bomb, just waiting for a victim to come."

Last week one of the squads went out to a device near Armagh, probably left as a booby trap for the police. It was a gas canister, sawn off at one end and studded with 16lb of gelignite and 7lb of nuts, bolts, and nails. It was pointing at the road and the wires leading from it had been chopped off, possibly because whoever was waiting for the police was seen.

A typical Belfast device—very crude compared to the stuff you find in the Far East," Major Stiles said—is a quantity of gelignite with a detonator wired to the spring of a clothespeg. Major Stiles has a scrapbook with a picture of a nail bomb built like this. It has a label saying Anti-Personnel on top, as if it was one of a mass-produced batch.

Close secret

The EOD men keep most of their tricks for making a bomb harmless a close secret. But one typical means is to take the device out to a quiet place, surround it with sandbags, and then take the lid off with a minute quantity of explosive. It is an operation which takes a lot of bravery and a lot of skill.

The problem facing the EOD squads is that while their technical knowledge is much greater than that of the terrorists, there is still no certainty of stopping somebody from walking up and throwing even the crudest bomb. The work the squads can do, however, has been one of the most notably successful parts of the Ulster operation. It is a remarkable sign of this that the hundreds of bombs the EOD squads have handled and investigated, not one has caused the slightest injury to any man in the team.



Visiting a spaceship in Trafalgar Square yesterday. It was a fund-raising activity for the Society for Mentally Handicapped Children, which held a meeting in the Square to launch Mental Handicap Week.

Schoolchildren make immigrants' lot easier

Huddersfield not only has a high proportion of immigrants but also a happy history of community relations, for which some of the credit must go to schoolchildren for their voluntary efforts in helping the newcomers to come to terms with their surroundings.

About ninety pupils from seven grammar and comprehensive schools in the town have been teaching English to Asian wives and, in doing so, giving a service that the local authority could not provide.

The education authority organises classes—in schools, the technical college, and the adult education centre—for teaching English to immigrants. But those who attend are mostly men. Traditionally, Asian women stay at home to look after house and children and

that is how their menfolk would wish it. Asians also tend to live close to one another and, while this helps to counteract the strangeness of a foreign country, it also limits contact with English people and their language.

The request for help in teaching the Asian women came from the immigrants themselves. When a youth forum was held in the town to discuss ideas for community work, the schools were quick to offer their help, and liaison between the youthful teachers and their pupils is carried out by Miss Judith Storey, a Community Service Volunteer.

The Home Tutor Scheme, as it is called, at first recruited only girls. Some boys have since become involved, and teenage boys and girls are also included among the pupils. There are also over a hundred adult volunteers, organised by a

retired missionary, Miss Alice Walton.

"Because we need so many volunteers," explained Miss Storey, "they are necessarily untrained. We try, however, to give them as much help as possible. The original organisers produced two

PROJECT HELP

schemes for reading and oral teaching, and I am a member of a study group producing visual aids, some of which will be for our volunteers to use.

"Of course, it is not easy to teach when you have no experience, but we find that most of our volunteers are imaginative, patient, and kind. For simple language work, it is possible to do a great deal by asking questions on a theme of pictures. One can give conversation

practice and correct mistakes when they crop up."

Miss Storey is the first to admit that the scheme is difficult to organise and is, essentially, an informal arrangement. The scheme is regularly advertised in Urdu, Punjabi, and English in shops used by the immigrants. The shopkeepers play their part by taking the names of those interested.

Apart from the teaching aspect, the scheme is seen as a way of giving Asian women the opportunity of meeting English people in an atmosphere that is informal without being patronising.

Most of Huddersfield's Asian immigrants come from the northern Punjab, and present more of a problem than other groups such as West Indian and Chinese. That latter, because they are fewer in number, cannot rely so heavily on their own people for company, and so

Council changes raise protests

By OUR OWN REPORTER

The Association of Neighbourhood Councils yesterday attacked the Government's plans to abolish almost all local councils in England.

"This wholesale slaughter is unnecessary," said the association. Many communities would be left without a voice for their district interests. Under the Government's scheme only parish councils in rural areas are to remain after 1974.

The small urban authorities could continue as parish councils, the association said. The failure to treat town and country alike by legislation which the coming year will create anomalies that will be difficult to defend, it added.

"People in one area will be able to have parish councils, while people in another area will not be allowed to have them."

"The spread of suburbs into what used to be the countryside has merged town and country in many places. It would be far better to accept this change in social geography as a fact upon which the coming legislation should be based," says the association.

"... it will be invidious to maintain in the reformed system an out of date distinction between town and country people in what were once urban districts and boroughs will inevitably say: 'Why cannot we, as of right,

have grass roots councils to present our interests, just like the people in what used to be rural districts?'"

According to the Government, the association said, the new enlarged district councils will have the decisive voice on which new parish councils should be created in urban areas.

It would be preferable to allow all existing councils to remain for a longer transitional period than the Government proposes. Existing councils should, the association says, continue from 1974 as neighbourhood councils with the same powers as the rural parish councils are going to have.

And "they would all... be given a statutory duty to draw up a plan for the establishment of permanent neighbourhood councils within their areas after 1975."

The Institute of Housing Managers expresses doubts about the ability of the smallest district councils with a population of 40,000 (the minimum proposed in the White Paper), to cope with housing services.

The institute recommends that in sparsely populated areas, county councils should be made responsible for housing functions, delegating provision and management to district councils in its area, having a substantial housing stock.

A memorandum to Mr Peter Walker, Minister for the Environment, says: "Such an arrangement would ensure that all housing departments were of sufficient size to be effective management units and would follow the current pattern of planning powers to county districts of sufficient size and resources."

The housing managers are also concerned about the status of the housing service after reorganisation.

Animal export ban urged

A woman MP is to urge a ban on exports of live animals from Britain for slaughter on the Continent. Miss Janet Foakes, Conservative MP for Merton and Morden, said yesterday that she was upset about the "hardship and discomfort, if not blatant cruelty," that she suspected they underwent.

"I don't see why all these animals cannot be slaughtered here and sent across as carcasses," said Miss Foakes, who is to raise the matter in the Commons tomorrow.

James Lewis

● This is the 18th article in the series called Project HELP, a Guardian competition for primary and secondary schools.



WILLIAM HOBBS is by common consent the best fight arranger in the theatre. There are about 20 of them in Britain, which is too many for regular employment for any but the best few, but Hobbs plans to cut their numbers by one. He is directing "Royal Tumble", which opens at the Young Vic tonight, and if that is a success he will no longer be a fight arranger. If it isn't, he'll return to his last, or fail, or whatever it is that fight arrangers return to.

"Royal Tumble" is, Hobbs hopes, less a show, more the start of a permanent company. Three years ago when he was working on "The Four Musketeers" at Drury Lane, he had the idea that dancers and acrobats working together could be the basis for a new company producing popular entertainment that would fall between the small avant-garde groups and the big popular successes like the Black and White Allstars or the Red Army Ensemble.

What excites Hobbs in the theatre are dancers like Antonio or the Russian sword dancers, and mimes like the incomparable Marcel Marceau (who has become a patron of the so-far nameless company). He turned these things over in his mind for three years, and his last, dozed off at the end of the road, and then, snap, Frank Dunlop bit, gave Hobbs three days in which to say yes or no to the idea of staging "Royal Tumble" at the Young Vic (three days, in other words, to raise the cash), another couple of months, which is nothing in theatre terms, to make plans before auditioning, and five weeks to put the show together and rehearse. As the company moved into its final rehearsals last week, Bill Hobbs looked a very tired man.

Because the company was so pushed, most of the ideas came from Hobbs himself, but some were spontaneous combustion: the evening's final ensemble came from the company of ten (five men, five women) filling in an idle moment at rehearsal. Hobbs went for versatile performers: two of the women dancers sing as well, and one of the men, a Dane, is an actor who trained in mime, in France and Italy, and also sings.

Hobbs wanted his men to be masculine—"English dancers are usually so crooked, but I've got five very strong men and very virile." The women, too, are lissom and sexy: watching them lumber up before rehearsal, he's watching athletes at work. Hobbs thinks the nearest parallel to the sort of show they are producing is "Rabelais", but "Royal Tumble" has no story. "I'm basically a spectacle man, I suppose, but dialogue has gradually crept into it," he says. That was on Monday. On Wednesday morning, two days before the first public preview, they ran

Royal rumble

William Hobbs on why he is giving up fight arranging for direction. By Michael McNay



"Royal Tumble" at rehearsal (William Hobbs sitting in background of top picture). Photos by Peter Johns

through the second half of the show twice, and discarded all the words the second time. That has been the way of it for five weeks: four of them in rehearsal on the Equity minimum rising to £18 a week at a youth club in Lambeth where Drury Lane lippies slept the night and left the place stinking after them.

"It sounds experimental, but in fact it's all using well-tried methods," Hobbs says. He is well qualified to direct this sort of athletic company. He was born in Hampstead in 1939 and went to Australia 10 years later, where he

learnt fencing at the age of 14. By 16, he became the youngest finalist there had ever been in the New South Wales open foil championships, and this won him a place in the 1956 Olympic training squad. But in 1957 he came back to London, trained for three years as an actor and after a few minor engagements came to the Old Vic in the opening year of the National Theatre company as actor and fight arranger.

He has arranged fights for Zeffirelli's brilliant Italian "Romeo and Juliet" for "Macbeth" for seven or eight

"Hamlets" including BBC television's production at Elsinore and Jonathan Miller's recent production which, because it was acted, none too professionally by undergraduates, was nearly taken over by Hobbs's spectacular fight, for "Romeo and Juliet" and "Macbeth" are dead, for three well as Four Musketeers, for the film of "RMS Defiant".

Although he is still on the National Theatre strength as an actor as well as a fight arranger, he rarely takes a part unless it is a small one involving fighting. Too many people have told

him he won't make it as an actor, including Big L himself, for him to have any ambitions in that direction. People who have worked with him say that as a fight arranger he is brilliant at expressing the characters of the combatants. Hobbs himself talks of his aims more modestly as a technical feat:

"You can't get away nowadays with all that Hollywood stuff, Errol Flynn and Rathbone: people would just laugh if you put it on stage. It's repetitive. I think the actors had a much easier time then. Now every single movement is planned to make an effect. You're like a choreographer, making pictures. That part of the play's yours."

The same is true in filming: up to a point, Hobbs has been working with Polanski on the play "Macbeth", shot in Wales and Northumberland, and he becomes distinctly nervous when he talks about that experience. He played young Seward (a fighting part) and arranged the other parts. It wasn't a question of coming into conflict with Polanski, except "when he tried to tell me how I should deliver a blow, that got my goat a bit, having him poking a sword in my eye." It was more that Polanski's personal history made the question of violence in the film extraordinarily delicate.

"I was in the hot seat rather on that one because of what happened to his wife and his association with violence. Where the director took over and where I stopped was a very moot point, something the audience will never know. In fact, where I did the fight and the combatants are covered in blood and gore, that's Polanski, it's not me. You can't say to a man like that, 'It has to be done this way, this is how a man dies'; he knows. It was frightening."

"It really was a hot seat. For instance, the beheading—no, I shouldn't talk about it (pause)—the beheading at the end of Macbeth: showing it in longshot and close up, there's still the same thing happening. So if the director chooses to come bang in on it, it's no more realistic, but this is the difference, where our job stops and the director takes over. As far as I'm concerned, one thing is as realistic as the other."

There is one scene in "Royal Tumble" which is a kind of critique of fight realism: two of the men come on rehearsing their moves by numbers, finish the sequence, quarrel, and go through the thing again, but this time in earnest. But not nearly as earnest as Bill Hobbs in hoping for a success. "You're going to get glory," the Negro spiritual in the show runs. The company would settle for less; just enough for the cash to come in and keep them together.



Anthony Grey: television

review

subtitled it "One Man's Freedom" and heaven alone knows he's got more right than most to talk about the subject, having had month upon month of his Peking solitude in which to contemplate its absence. Since when, he's written his book, and what he calls "his moderate success" has enabled him to stroll lengthily on the sands of Jersey.

Nor was technical back-up lacking. A range of tricks from a remote-controlled typewriter to the slow-motion Red Guard wrecking of his reconstructed room was added to bring back the force of the nightmare and the slogan-daubed seclusion that followed it.

Others were called in, from Michael Stewart and Arthur Koestler to a man who got hounded from Jersey for sex offences, he didn't commit and chose a near-desert island on which, he said, he was alone, not lonely.

There was no part of the programme that was not interesting. The sweep went from a telling close-up of Grey's hands as he clipped his fingernails—a significant occupation in "solitary"—to his memory of a recurring question of that period: "What is the Universe in?" And Koestler confirmed that in the death cell a man was confronted with ultimate realities instead of his bank balance—which is another form of confinement.

Yet in total it was like a flip through one of those books of essays that philosophy dons publish to keep themselves in research fellowships for another ten years. "Aspects of Freedom." Conclusions to follow—perhaps.

it all out to split-second routines. So Jail House Rock" was pure shaking. "At the Hop" was high school athletics, and "Tenango" (that grisly one from way back, in which a girl gets run over by a train trying to save her boy-friend's ring) was given the full poker-faced dramatic treatment. The joke was good enough to last for three encores.

In spite of the rain and other such annoyances, it was a worth while little festival, and a good showcase for some of the best and underpublicised British bands.

RECORDS

Edward Greenfield

Sibelius

JUST AT THE TIME when Mahler was writing his "Resurrection" Symphony (No. 2), Sibelius, five years younger, attempted a comparably ambitious choral symphony. For the Finn it was a false start—almost at once he realised that his path led towards austerity rather than the "Kullervo" Symphony, some 70 minutes long and based on a weird folk-tale from the Kalevala is a work that should not be forgotten. The composer himself banned performance of it in his lifetime, but did not reject it entirely. One of his last essays in composition involved arranging a short passage from it as a separate song.

The first performances of "Kullervo" outside Finland took place last autumn in London and Bournemouth, showing at once that this expensive work contains some of the most vital and colourful of Sibelius's earliest ideas. Plainly it is a mistake to relate it too closely to the tenser structures of later Sibelius symphonies, rather to what Mahler was aiming at in a symphonic structure. Nowadays, Mahlerians all, we must see "Kullervo" as an excitingly viable work, and so the first recording confirms, with the same performers as we heard last autumn—Paavo Berglund conducting the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and Helsinki University Choir.

The first two purely instrumental movements not only set the scene, they show the composer's natural command over large structures, while the three choral movements (unison writing for men's voices the general rule) are irresistibly energetic. The structural clumsiness actually adds to the quirky originality.

The performance on record (HMV ASD 2634-4) is even finer than that at the Festival Hall, with the Bournemouth Orchestra, particularly the brass, in splendid form. The two Finnish soloists are an earthly-sounding bass, Usko Viitanen, and a rather raw-toned mezzo, Raili Kosla. Recording of demonstration quality. Whether by

shrewd intention or happy accident, EMI also comes up this month with a reissue of Klemperer's superb account of Mahler's Second Symphony with Schwarzkopf, Ross, Majdan and the Philharmonia (HMV SLS 806)—improved recording and an album box for a substantially reduced price. Ormandy's recent version on the mid-price RCA label has brighter recording, but Klemperer with a keener sense of occasion conveys the vision of Judgment Day even more compellingly.

Among HMV's recent Melodiya issues comes a warmly colourful romantic symphony that deserves to get in the pop repertoire, the Symphony No. 1 in G minor by the Russian composer Kalinnikov, a short-lived friend and contemporary of Rachmaninov. There is some cribbing from Borodin's Second Symphony (a work that does not get performed as often as it should be) but Kalinnikov's melodies are memorable in their own right, and the Moscow Philharmonic under Kondrashin play with obvious love (HMV ASD 2720). Lisopounov's Second Piano Concerto makes a flashy, lightweight half-side all-up.

A Stravinsky Memorial Album comes from CBS, three records at only £4.99 containing six of the composer's own recordings, including what I still think is the finest performance ever recorded of "The Rite of Spring." "Firebird" and "Petrushka" and "Pulcinella" come not complete but in ballet-suite form. The remaining disc contains the Symphony of Psalms (not ideal but the finest current version) and the Symphony in C. A generous helping.

ALDEBURGH

Edward Greenfield

Eliot's Magi

BENJAMIN BRITTEN has composed a fourth canticle to add to the memorable group that he wrote in the mid-1950s—this time a setting of T. S. Eliot's "Journey of the Magi," a poem which, as he explains, he has known and loved all his life. The canticle, some ten minutes long, reflects that love. This is a thoughtful and highly individual setting of vivid words, as we heard in the first performance at the Maltings on Saturday with the composer accompanying a fine trio of singers, counter-tenor, tenor and baritone, James Bowman, Peter Pears and John Shirley-Quirk.

It is this Purcellian grouping of voices that lies at the heart of Britten's reading of the poem. I am not sure that he is right. For myself, I hear in the words not three voices but one, and that a voice reflecting long, after the event. But whatever the poetic logic the musical result is striking, and as ever, unlike almost any other song composer, Britten is quite at ease setting really great words.

Just as in the second canticle, "Abraham and Isaac" (which Bowman, Pears, and Britten performed before the interval) Britten conceived an unearthly sound by juxtaposing the solo voices in thirds and seconds for the words of God, so here another unique sound is produced by interweaving the voices in overlapping, pivoting phrases. This close-harmony effect is used for much of the narrative, most memorably for a sustained chorale-like passage at "And so we continued." More rarely, where the text suggests it is apt, the words are treated with contrapuntal elaboration, and the great climax typographically emphasised by the poet "but set down this" is strongly mirrored in the music. Even so, I found myself wondering whether the words are not so self-sufficient that even the searching light of a Britten is intrusive. It was a doubt that was almost inevitable after the second canticle has been so moving. There the words of the Chester Miracle Play are plainly transformed by music and made vivid in their compressed drama.

To start the programme there were some new Purcell realisations from Britten, including a magnificently odd mad-scene taken out of D'Urfey's "Don Quixote," and a fine song by John Shirley-Quirk. There was also a show-stopping unaccompanied trio "When the cock begins to crow," full of bird and animal noises. James Bowman, unexpectedly the evening's dominating artist, gave an unforgettable impersonation of the cockerel.

MANCHESTER

Gerald Larner

Halle Prom

HAVING OPENED the Halle Summer Proms very respectably a week before, James Loughran indulged himself in a "Saturday Pop" this weekend. Again he got through to the Free Trade Hall audience—a large and happy one—and again the orchestra responded keenly to his duly appreciative direction. It was a good programme of its kind, with Ibert's "Divertissement" a racy contrast to Wagner and Tchaikovsky solemnity, Schubert's "Unfinished" a symphonic counter-balance to bits and pieces by Wolf-Ferrari and Verdi.

The naughty French Ibert delighted the audience, many of whom had presumably not come across his parodistic vulgarity before. In fact, amusing though it was, this was not the most stylish performance of the evening. Like the playing in the "Susanna's Secret" Overture it did not have the total security and absolute brilliance which both these frivolous works need. On the other hand, the ballet music from Verdi's "Otello" emerged more exotic and more interesting than its reputation allows.

LIMELIGHT IN THE DARK

Robin Thorner interviews Tony Connor, the poet whose first play is being performed in Manchester tonight.

"I'M NOT going to write any more poems." Hesitation. "Not for a while anyway. Tony Connor, the poet of Manchester, has abandoned the lonely little men in their bedchambers for the extravaganza of the stage. His first play 'I Am Real And So Are You' opens at Manchester's Library Theatre today."

It seems odd. When you're just beginning to learn, after a lifetime's struggle, to write a living out of verse to set a new and even more precarious course. Connor's career has already been carefully chronicled by the Guardian. Child of a Salford lodging house, left school at 14 to design tiles for 20 years; poet and painter; the group that led to the formation of the Manchester Institute of Contemporary Arts. Robin Skelton found loopholes that got him a nongraduate MA course at Manchester University he taught design and liberal studies at Bolton, became a £13,000-a-year resident writer at Amherst College, Connecticut. "When I came back I was on National Assistance for six months."

Some American critics have called him one of the finest living English poets. But he is estranged from the Chelsea literary cocktail set who control the fashionable scene; he feels they patronise him as the wild man from the mills. "My poetry has been misread in this country," he says, "it's seen as a sociological phenomenon. I America they don't understand anything about the English caste system so the poems get read as poems, no tracts."

He is nonchalant about neglect, bitter only over publishing's vicious circle—they won't promote poets because they know it won't sell. As he has had a moderate success—his published by Oxford University Press and last month the Guardian review said of his latest volume: "...a good book. He chooses good words and places them right; at his most depressed he is witty." His "Child Bouncing Song" got into the school anthologies, and he's heard it sung in the streets.

Even so, the most he has earned from his writing in any one year is £125. The living comes from readings of his work, and lecture tours. He's going back to America next year as professor of literature at the Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut. "I don't fit in to the British system," he says. "The States you are given carte blanche. I wouldn't be going to America if I could make a reasonable living here."

You wonder if Tony Connor is turning to the stage to reach a wider audience? You're wrong. "Poetry may not have a very big audience, but it's a good audience." Anyway, he says coming from a working class background you have no illusions about art for the masses. "You take it as axiomatic that you can't possibly change the world. It's just a very little light in the darkness." His mother, 77, and a very shrewd old lady, has never read one of his poems.

He did once try writing for television to reach more people (and make more money). "Everything I had to say was vulgarised by the editing. One man in the street came up to me and said: 'You are the spirit of the North.' I was frightened to death."

So here he is, in the middle-way, neither Establishment nor revolutionary, a poet from the people without honour in his own country. "By the time you reach 40 you're a good idea what you're doing." And what he has always wanted to do is write for the theatre. "What I'm interested in is illusion and reality. This is the theme of my poetry, and the play is concerned with the same thing. And it's central to the theatre anyway."

Three things pushed him into it. "In January I was given an insider's view of the drama for the first time. I had written the lyrics for a musical play at the Stables Theatre Club, and was allowed to sit in the dressing room. To watch a talented director and resourceful actors bringing a bare script to life gave me a perspective I'd always lacked on the relationship between words on a page and action on stage. Immediately after this I started writing the play. I'd hoped to write since the age of 14."

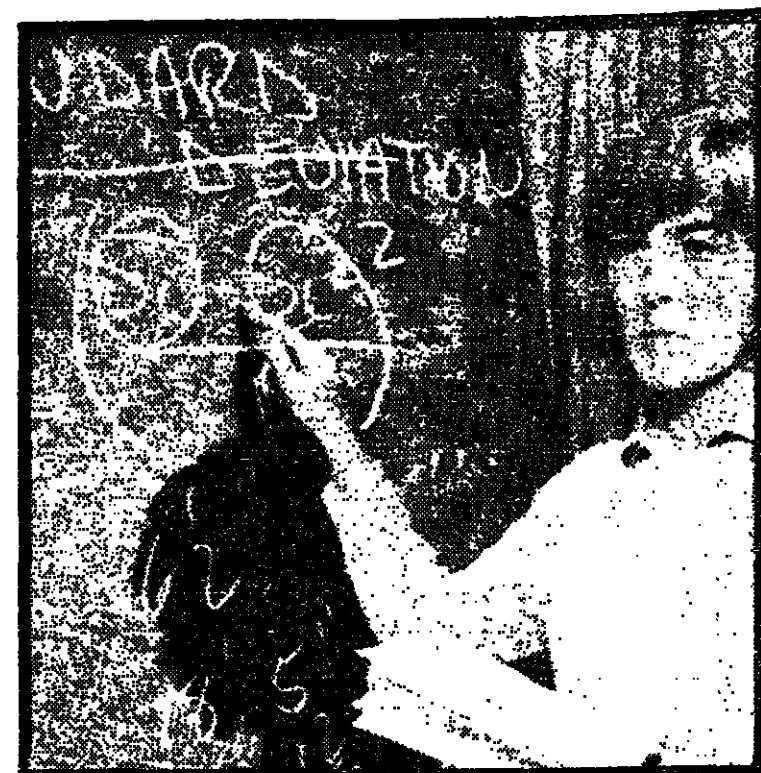
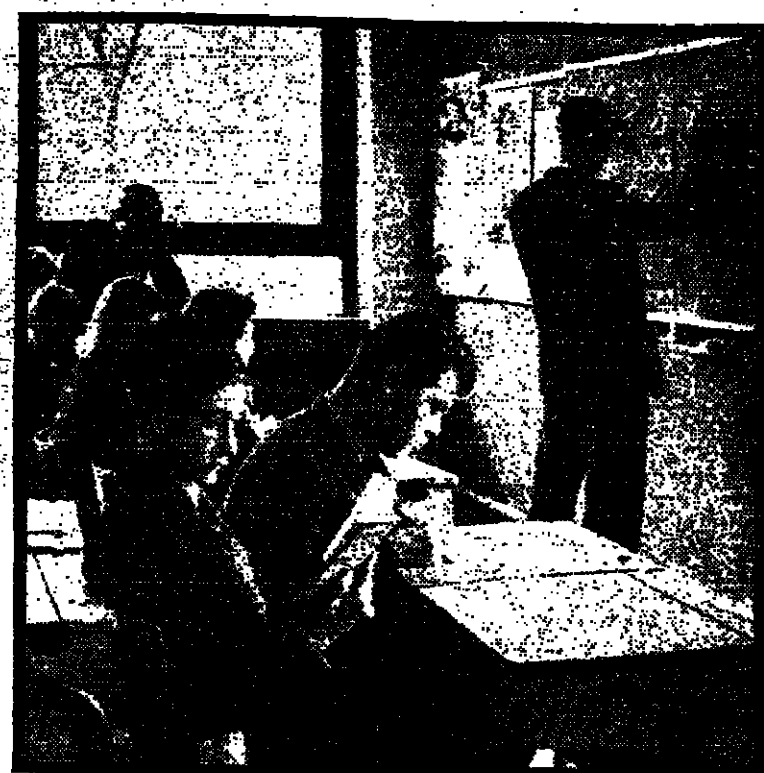
This was where he met Richard Wilson, the director of "I Am Real And So Are You," with whom he formed Avenue Enterprises, to promote this and other new plays. "It was finding somebody else with the same ideas. Richard doesn't verbalise as much as I do, but basically he knows just what I'm up to. He has the proper mixture of high ambition and hard-headed realism."

Thirdly, there was £1,300. This was paid into an Irish bank by a Canadian University for Tony's manuscripts—"a lot of rubbish which, being a man of meticulous habits, I had pushed into the attic." It enabled them to set up the company and rehearse their first production. With the rights re-invested and support from other backers, they hope to go on to a much more ambitious production based on Charles Peace, which Tony has written with Jack Marriot. And already they're muttering about films.

"I Am Real And So Are You" has the same combination of high ambition and hard-headed realism that marks Avenue Enterprises. "It is a poetic drama," Tony Connor says, "although it's not written in verse. The shadow of Shakespeare has blighted many talents. I'm just a pastiche. Eliot misguidedly used a racy, colloquial English prose. It is, he says, a parable of human love in three parts. "It is meant to be funny, frightening, invigorating in its verbal constructs, and puzzling in its implied conclusions. I'm not in any sense an autodidactic writer, like Yeats or Shaw. Any artist who thinks he knows what he's doing is a fool."

Well, in a little

**LIMELIGHT
THE DARK**
Robin Thorner
Tony Connor, the
those first play
performed in
onight



GOVERNORS AT SIR JOHN CASS fire a teacher for publishing pupils' poetry—Fascist swine. A head at Croydon suspends a boy for writing "obscene" essay and refusing the cane—mean bully. Girls put in cupboard with skeletons for punishment by teachers—rotten sadist. Teachers send children out of school for wearing mini skirts, trousers, suits, hot pants, long hair and engagement rings—they're power mad, that's what they are.

And Bryan Connor, 42-year-old headmaster of a London primary school throws himself over a 300ft cliff "because of staffing problems, difficulty in controlling children," they said at his inquest this month, was too much for him.

FROM THE HAZE of childhood I can pick out the adult faces now. Mother, father, of course. Half a dozen other close relatives, a sprinkling of honorary aunts and uncles, one mother of a friend and a Sainsbury's cashier because she had a beard that sprouted in the moisture of her little damp cage. The rest of the grown-up world were teachers, and their familiar features loomed at me still through the chalky air, framed in blackboards, smiling and frowning, loved and hated, loving and hating.

I remember Miss Needham, a caricature too classic to be true, except that she was true. Profile sharp as stalactites, great brown bun bowing the scraggy neck, feet two yards long in pointed button shoes. She had an obsession with the left side of corridors—if you kept to them you kept to the straight and narrow, the golden path that leads to the right hand of God. "Tweedie," she would shout as I looped past her, "Tweedie, keep left, keep left, I say." But to me, corridors were transitory things and I swung along the middle, mostly, talking all the time and laughing fit to bust. Miss Needham fell upon me once, as once too often I ricocheted from left to the forbidden right, and dragged me into an empty classroom. There she began to scream, her papery cheeks flushed red, and I stood stunned, pinned to the wall by the force of her fury. She told me I was evil and twisted, that I would end on the streets, a prostitute fit only to assuage the foul male passions. I looked down, amazed, at my fat navy-blue chest, at my long, gangly legs, ink-stained and scabbed at the knees and I knew, in a cloudy way, that Miss Needham had problems, that a hurricane inside her had chanced upon me as its eye.

I cried all the same, tears slipping



JILL TWEEDIE

down my cheeks without pain. How super, how smashing. Miss Needham was being Unfair. Afterwards, aglow with the glorious knowledge that an adult had overstepped the mark, I went sobbing artificially home and my mother, genuinely outraged, began some slow process that got Miss Needham sacked—Oh, she left decorously enough at the end of term but I knew, I knew. It never occurred to me to wonder about her problems. She was a teacher and, as such, had signed away her status as a full human being.

I remember Miss Osborne, too, a woman of plain and unprepossessing appearance: and plainness, to us, was a crime. You were not permitted to have thin greying hair; it was against the law to have spots; it was downright sinful to be fat and Miss Osborne was guilty of all three—what more direct incitement to aggression? Day after day, for two whole terms, Miss Osborne's pupils sat down at their desks with one thought in mind, one target for that hour: to reduce Miss Osborne to tears. We used our weapons as coldly as spears. Giggles ebbed and flowed across the room as we led Miss Osborne gently, inexorably, towards certain passages of the Bible (she was a Scripture teacher). "And then he came in unto her and knew her" we read with innocence and inborn corruption. "What does that mean, Miss Osborne, please?" we chanted, turning our sweet faces towards her like sunflowers. "what does he know her mean?" Miss Osborne, tight as a spring, would blush and stammer, unable to gauge our innocence or guilt. Loving God was no solace to her, faced with these pagan children, hearts anaesthetised by numbers and by the distance between Us and Them.

And oh, goodie, goodie, we've succeeded again. Miss Osborne's unforgivable small eyes are sparkling with tears and we watch with glee her Adam's apple jumping up and down. At the end of the second term, Miss Osborne

resigned and we were left, victors in a well-fought fight. Later, perhaps, some of us would feel little swoopings of regret but Miss Osborne will never know.

It seems to me, looking back, that we judged all our teachers at some deep level by the standards of our parents' world. As girls we knew our looks and charm were all important and so we applied the same criteria to our teachers. Did they have a man, could they get a man? We judged them at a kangaroo court and if they failed we felt no pity, no understanding. Sentence was passed and carried out—we were merely implementing a wider adult conviction and we took our task seriously. Only the one or two rare birds, the cold clever women with sharp tongues and a deep cynicism, escaped our ultra-conventional net.

And we were supposedly well-brought-up girls, hefty amazons from gracious homes, groaning with vitamins. Few traumas clouded our childish brows, fathers stayed married to mothers, brothers came and went to boarding schools, holidays were long sun-soaked days in Cornwall or the South of France, some of us even had ponies. Yet still, just under the smooth faces, the gleaming plaits, lay the old bleak harshness of children. And I cannot believe that we were, by some random selection, a particularly nasty group. We were happy, laughing, kind, normal, barbaric children—we had, as they say, every advantage and we took it. Nor were our teachers under any unusual strains: our school was bright and airy and crammed with all the latest facilities.

In the deprived areas, the tough ghettos of great cities, the children are very often not well-fed, are not happy, laugh little and must cope with drunken fathers, despairing mothers, four to a room and never a moment's quiet. Squeezed from slum flats onto the streets, a natural barbarism turns into

Blackboard guerrillas

'...we remain content to make the teacher a scapegoat for wider ills. We want liberal attitudes but we give teachers little extra help for the extra time liberal attitudes exact'

a need to survive. Maladjusted now by accident, the children are either eminently adjusted by their own or they give way and, when they do, teachers are the first on the receiving end. A spokesman for the National Union of Teachers puts it this way:

"From five to 15 years old, the most important person in a child's life, besides his parents, is a teacher, someone who influences him eight hours a day. If that child is unhappy and lashes out, he's very likely to do it at school, to a teacher. Recently, a boy stabbed a young woman teacher with a chisel. On the face of it, a completely motiveless action—he had no grudge against her, he gave no warning he was a good worker, quiet and well-behaved. But when we actually look at the life he led, it becomes suddenly clear that in human terms he was right at the end of his tether. He had come from a broken home and spent a number of years in care. Then he was fostered out to a good enough family but still was given little human warmth. And when he finally broke down, the nearest person to him was this teacher."

Indeed, all the signs indicate that the teaching profession is becoming more hazardous every year. Teachers are increasingly tired and strained, they suffer from stress diseases and are driven to take up, too often (420 last year) the special pension provision for early retirement, called colloquially "the breakdown pension."

"The demands on teachers are greater now than ever before. Other people are getting longer holidays and shorter hours. Our holidays are getting shorter, we're required to take holiday journeys and extra courses and our hours are longer in a profession that has never been a nine-to-five job. Things like physical attacks on teachers have remained fairly steady over the years, they're not getting worse, as some people think. But what has changed is the motive and that is

frightening in itself. In the old days, an attack had a rational cause. Nowadays there tends to be no obvious cause—simply the nature of modern living."

But one certain contribution to this extra strain is the change in teaching attitudes demanded (or seconded) by us, the public. We expect teachers now to take more individual time and more trouble with our children than ever before. We ask for less exercise of "authority" and more equality; less "parrot-feeding" and more understanding and involvement; we ask, in fact, very many of the things that we, as parents, are hard pushed to give our own children. At the same time, many of us frown upon the use by teachers of the disciplinary measures we often use ourselves. Mothers who lam out quite happily at their children complain bitterly of teachers who adopt, even once, the same methods. One headmistress of a primary school in a poorer area of London talks with wry humour about this aspect of parent-teacher relationships:

"Goodness knows, I believe deeply in running a school along liberal lines, without imposing authority from above and without any form of corporal punishment, but this way of doing things is definitely a much greater strain on teachers. The moment you decide, out of your own convictions, that you're going to try and get at the root of some child's behaviour instead of just punishing them, you need time. It often takes an age to find out what's wrong and another age to think up the best way to deal with what you've found out. Here, we try to give understanding and affection and, if the worst comes to the worst, we remove the child from the classroom situation because he's disturbing the others—you know, loving him to help you with something. All of which is very time-consuming."

And, since many of these children

have become completely accustomed to corporal punishment, even its non-use at school poses problems. "If a child's really been having a bad time at home he will sometimes think of you as a 'softie,' almost taunt you with the fact that you don't hit him. You have to take him aside and give him reasons why you don't want him to behave as he is—and that, again, takes time. A lot of time and energy goes into preparing a lesson anyway. Then, say you have half-a-dozen very destructive children in a class, well, you have to give out with your personality to overcome this. Much more exhausting (though certainly better in the end) than a couple of strokes with the cane. I try, here, to split myself into as many parts as there are people and children to consider because I want everyone to have their say, but sometimes I long to walk around saying 'you do this and you do that,' without any consultation, just to get things done."

As a society we are eager and willing to jump upon teachers who appear to be exercising any form of petty tyranny. We pile calumny upon heads who have for "obscene" essays we ridicule those who insist on minor conformities in their pupils. We complain of the arbitrary use of authority and we are quite right to do so, as far as it goes. No-one should be allowed any form of power without constant checks. But we do not take our concern far enough—we remain content to make the teacher a scapegoat for wider ills. We want liberal attitudes but we give teachers very little extra help for the extra time liberal attitudes exact. The whole school structure today, combined with an appalling shortage of money, virtually demands an authoritarian approach to work at all. To be authoritarian means to cut corners and it is understandable that to many teachers corner-cutting often seems the only way to get through their day at all.

It is all too easy to be right at a distance, easy and smugly self-righteous to point the finger at some bureaucratic Head using what we consider the wrong methods to run a school. It is even easier to turn our backs on his problem until he, too, jumps over a cliff, half out of his mind with worry about a school so poor and pupils with such desperate behaviour problems that no teacher will stay for more than four months and the children's behaviour gets steadily worse. If we want to replace the cane with kindness, the Powers that Be with friendship between teacher and pupil, we must be prepared to pay the price or blame ourselves, as well. We will the ends but we do not will the means.

THE National Westminster Bank at 291b Oxford Street is a friendly place. The staff likes to keep in touch with its customers, likes to know when they're going on holiday, or buying a baby, little things like that which could affect their finances for the rest of their lives.

The manager likes to keep in touch as well. So much so that behind the counter they have a document called the Gossip Book. In it each cashier enters little items of information picked up in the course of friendly conversation with clients. Possibly she writes up in the course of friendly conversation between clients while they are standing in endless queues for the two guichets that are open. Each morning the Gossip Book is sent into the manager's office so that he can catch up on yesterday's chat.

The National Westminster's customer relations manager, Peter Woodham, tells about when he heard of the Gossip Book. "It's like accident books which make interesting reading at times," he said when he stopped laughing. "It's certainly nothing official." Then he had a few guesses at what the book might contain.

"Just suppose one of the good customers had become a grandfather, for instance. A really good grandfather, would want to know about that first so when the customer came to see him he could say: 'Ah, Mr Smith I hear you're a grandfather.' He might send round a case of champagne or waive the charge for the manager's time, perhaps."

Then Mr Woodham checked with the Oxford Street branch ("They'd refuse to talk to you direct"), and sure enough, that's what it is used for. Just personal details which might be of interest to a customer relations-conscious manager.

"And anyway, if it comes to that," he added, "half the columns of the Guardian are invasion of privacy. I mean, don't you think if you overheard anything that would affect your business, any sort of business, wouldn't you act on it? Quite honestly I can't see this is of any interest to your readers at all."

WHAT WITH Gossip Books, the publishers of some fixed charges and the announcement about paying for the manager's time, it has been something of a tricky week for Britain's banks. In a praiseworthy fit of frankness, the Midland released to a consumer group magazine exactly how much it charged those customers whose salary was paid directly into the bank. But that still leaves about two thirds of their customers whose income is less systematic and who are still charged, to say the least, erratically.

One Midland customer who is not paid under direct transfer has made a detailed study of his bank charges over the past three years. In December 1968 he paid £10.55 for six months' banking. The sum rose steadily by a few pounds a year until last December when it went up to £22.97 for the half.



CHECKOUT

edited by Elisabeth Dunn

year. This month they were down to £16.23. The man overdraws—usually less than £50 and rarely more than £100. He calculated that the charge for a cheque drawn or paid in varied from 3.29p to 17.34p per item.

In the first half of 1970 he paid £15.53 in charges, drew and paid in 156 cheques and was overdrawn for 117 days. In the second six months he was overdrawn for one day, transacted 27 fewer cheques and paid £6.54 more in bank charges.

He calmly accepts that bank charges have gone up in three years but he would feel more at peace with his bankers if he knew how they arrived at their conclusions. In 1968 when he was overdrawn for 131 days, the charges were at their all-time low. In 1971 when he was overdrawn for only 21 days, the charges were at their second highest.

He also worked out that, if in the interests of economy, he draws fewer cheques, he just gets charged more per withdrawal—about 12p. When he used his account most (not necessarily with a large amount on the balance) each cheque costs 5p or less.

"The difficulty," said a Midland Bank spokesman, "is that you're talking about individual managers. They set the charges. It's possible that there are more differences from branch to branch than from bank to bank."

THE AJAX POWER Game is perhaps one of the great point-of-sale campaigns of our time. Ajax scourer and liquid cleaner is emblazoned with encouragement to win £10,000, often displayed with the psychological insight that only supermarkets managers possess.

The difficulty occurs when, having bought Ajax scourer as her proof of

purchase, the optimistic housewife gets home and finds that she is only half-way towards entering (let alone winning) the competition. She now needs an entry form, and entry forms, it says on the tin, are on every packet of Ajax panshiners. She could write to Colgate-Palmolive and get a form direct from the manufacturers, but that takes the edge off the competitive spirit. She could find a retail store displaying the entry forms or (an idea much encouraged by Colgate-Palmolive), she could go back to the shops, still eager to enter the competition, and buy Ajax panshiners and use the form on the packet.

Colgate-Palmolive says that it is all a question of technicalities—that they cannot print entry forms on tins and bottles. Manufacturers never seemed to have much trouble fixing plastic daffodils to the most unlikely-shaped products; a mere printed form should not pose too many problems but that's promotion. As an alternative Colgate-Palmolive might consider scrubbing the promotion on tins and bottles and confining the Ajax Powder game blurb to the panshiners. It might lose some of the impact but it would be less enraging for the compulsive competitor.

HAPPILY FOR Encyclopaedia Britannica, the Unsolicited Goods Act does not come into force until August 12—a charismatic date if ever there was one. If the Act were law now, Britannica could well be losing an awful lot of its Great Artists Collection.

After the third volume of the 20-part series was issued, Britannica sent a circular to all subscribers to the effect that, instead of getting (and paying £1.45 for) a book a month, they were sending out all the remaining 17 sections in one batch but payment would

still be spread out as originally contracted.

Meanwhile, Mr John Charlesworth, having received the third volume, decided he would cancel his subscription by returning the fourth. He then got the circular from Britannica. He was told that his acceptance of the new arrangement would be assumed unless he informed Encyclopaedia Britannica within 30 days. There was no address given for reply.

Mr Charlesworth unearthed an address for Britannica but ten days later his postcard closing his account was returned marked "Gone Away." He wrote again to Britannica's current address and last week the remaining 17 volumes of Great Artists arrived on his doorstep.

Encyclopaedia Britannica says this has nothing to do with inertia selling or unsolicited goods or anything because subscribers still have "full return privileges." Which means that you send back books you don't want or unsolicited goods. If the Act were in force now, Mr Charlesworth would be entitled not to send back the books and not to pay for them and, since he has already informed Encyclopaedia Britannica that he does not want any more of their Great Artists, the set would be his legal property in 30 days.

ALISON BOWDITCH has a poetic turn of mind. Some time ago she was a company called Cathay Books offering a collection of her work for publication. Cathay Books wrote back to her and said they would be delighted to publish two of her poems. They would expect a fee of £8 per poem and as an additional author's privilege she would receive a free copy of the anthology on publication for each poem published. She could obtain further copies for only £2—two thirds of the market price. Alison Bowditch is 13 which Cathay might have guessed since she wrote from her boarding school address.

Miss Bowditch—and her parents—were a little upset at demands for money for her work. In its many advertisements, Cathay describes itself as a "subscription" publishing house which may well have led Miss Bowditch to think that its books were available on subscription rather than through retail outlets. Cathay says it always consults classified advertising departments on the phraseology of its ads. Anyway, it is more explicit than some other "vanity publishers"—as orthodox publishers call them—who do not mention anything about money at all.

The Publishers' Association said, with some restraint, that it thought vanity publishers were something of a necessity since poetry was such an unsaleable commodity. Nevertheless, vanity publishers do not figure among the Association's membership.

Varoomshka cartoonist John Kent in on holiday.



Court fashion

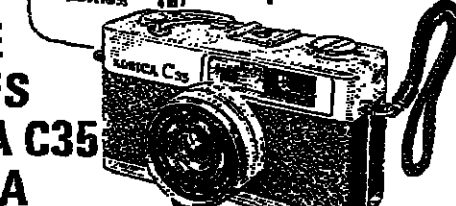
The panache of Virginia Wade is totally unconscious, with an instinctive style that is an integral part of her. When I asked if she would let us photograph her at Wimbledon, she promised to wear the outfit she feels best in when playing. This is the dress and shorts outfit, designed by Teddy Tinling.

She has it in two versions. The one in our picture is in a Dacron and cotton twill fabric. The edging to the dress and shorts is of lilac ribbon. Her other version has red instead of lilac, and is made in an entirely new Acrylic fabric made with Du Pont's latest fibre, "Nandel." You can see the "Nandel" version of Virginia's outfit in *Luxurites*. —Alison Adburgham

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Mr Heath's other split

Brighton is just one of many small towns dotted along the flightpath between London and Salisbury. But as the Anglo-Rhodesian talks gather way, Brighton has a significance all of its own. This is the place where Mr Heath will face his second Conservative Party Conference as Prime Minister. His flock may be a little more impatient this autumn than they were last year. More than a few Monday Club wolves are likely to be lurking there, and a prime issue will be Rhodesia.

Mr Heath knows that the greatest division within his party since the election has not been, and is not even likely to be, the Common Market. It is Rhodesia. When Sir Alec Douglas-Home moved the annual Order in Council renewing Rhodesian sanctions in November, 23 Conservative MPs voted against it, and another 130 abstained. Barely more than half the party voted with the Government. For party reasons Mr Heath now feels bound to have another try with Mr Smith, even though the Rhodesian rebel leader has repeatedly shown himself to be a man who cannot be trusted in negotiations, and even though, as Sir Alec was right to admit last autumn, the situation then was "even less amenable to a solution than last year."

Negotiations with Mr Smith are necessary to Mr Heath for party reasons. Is a sell-out also necessary for party reasons? Will those Conservatives who are worried that kith and kin in Australia and New Zealand are being betrayed

by Mr Heath's enthusiasm for the Common Market be appeased by the welcome news that other kith in Rhodesia are back in the British fold, with the United Nations left fuming on the sidelines? Mr Heath may dismiss these speculations as unfair. But there is no other way except party pressure to explain his desire to go on with negotiations that will not lead to Whitehall's "honourable settlement," and certainly not to justice for Rhodesia's oppressed majority.

The news that Britain is now offering a second series of proposals to Mr Smith only confirms the view that Mr Heath's haste is as unseemly as its probable motives. It also confirms—for the umpteenth time—the Rhodesians' intransigence, and their all too plausible assumption that it is not on them but on the Conservative Party and on narrow financial interests that sanctions are really biting. Even if Mr Smith were now to go back on his republican apartheid constitution and concede the principle of eventual majority rule, we would only be back to Mr Smith 1969. It would be a reversal of his most recent statements and would no doubt be sold by Mr Smith's public relations men in parts of Fleet Street as a "concession" (and therefore matchable by equivalent British concessions). But all it would mean is that as on HMS Tiger and Fearless Mr Smith would be talking about amendments to the 1961 constitution. He would presumably be asking for more than he wanted on Fearless. No British Government could accept these demands and not break its word.

Australian afterthought

What Mr Anthony, Australia's Deputy Prime Minister, said yesterday about Britain's mindfulness of Australian economic interests sounded harsh, bitter, and emotional. It can be taken two ways. At first sight it looks as if Australia has realised, far too late, the implications of Britain's terms for joining the Common Market. The Australian Government will be held guilty by some of neglecting its own interests in not badgering the British Government as New Zealand did. On the other hand, Australian officials have been referring to assurances given by Mr Rippon that Australia's interests would be borne in mind. If this is so, Australia has been unfairly treated and its case should be looked at. But at present the ties between Britain and Australia are being regarded in unprofitably emotive terms.

Mr Anthony also talked of Australia being able to stand up for itself. The economic background to this comment is the key to the difference between the position of his country and that of New Zealand. Australia has been making efforts since the 1961 application of Britain to join the Common Market to diversify its trade away from over-dependence on agriculture. The mineral boom and the markets of Japan and the United States have made it a rich country. It has been drawn out of the Commonwealth's overstretched economic ambience. Politically,

Australia is an Asian Power under the United States' umbrella—as Mr Whitlam's visit to China symbolises. With this sturdy economic base and the redirection of political and economic policies, Australia appears to have been hoping for too much from Britain.

The terms for Britain's entry will without doubt cause difficulties for Australia's rural industries. Its home market will not be able to absorb the sugar and dairy products which were formerly assured of a market in Britain. This will cause hardship to some half a million farmers, but it is estimated that Australia is rich enough to sustain this burden within five years.

The Australian Government has laid itself open to the accusation of having acted too naively. This could have serious effects on the prospects of Mr McMahon's Liberal-Country Party coalition in next year's federal elections. These circumstances make it all the more likely that the Australian Government has to be seen to be taking action. To this end it can attempt to bring pressure on the British Government to seek some sort of transitional arrangement for its sugar and dairy products, though without much hope of success. Australia can also retaliate by removing Britain's favourable investment terms and trade preferences. But sheer tit-for-tat tactics would be unrealistic. They would ignore—as Australia appears to have done—the present political and economic alignments in the world.

How perspectives change

A question that ought to be addressed formally to Mrs Thatcher is why she has changed her mind about the competence of local education authorities to run their own affairs. Why, in particular, does she now think that Whitehall knows better than Barnet about comprehensive education in Barnet? The record is clear. In opposition she was the champion of the local authorities' rights. In office she insists on her own and tramples on theirs.

On February 12 last year Mrs Thatcher told the Commons that "if an area wants a total or partial comprehensive scheme, then under our view of the powers of the local authorities and of the Secretary of State it should be entitled to have it, provided that electors, teachers, and parents agree."

Now that she is Secretary of State herself Mrs Thatcher has told the electors, teachers, and parents of Barnet that she forbids them to make three secondary schools into two comprehensive ones. She has said that one school, Whitefield, cannot go comprehensive because it lacks £100,000 worth of laboratories. She has said that the other school, which would be formed out of two existing schools, must not go comprehensive because the buildings are half-a-mile apart. The chairman of the Barnet Education Committee, which is Conservative-controlled, has said with restraint that Mrs Thatcher must have been

extremely badly advised. The chairman, Councillor Usher, has also been chairman of the governors of one of the two schools (the grammar school) which was to have formed part of the new comprehensive. Mrs Thatcher is not saying to a local bureaucrat that she knows best. She is saying it to an elected Conservative Councillor who has direct knowledge of the situation he is trying to improve.

It is true that two of the three schools concerned are in Mrs Thatcher's constituency. She might wish to descend from her pedestal in Curzon Street and use her local knowledge to argue the matter out with Councillor Usher. But she has not done this and probably cannot for fear of creating precedents that her Department would dislike about Secretaries of State taking sides in a dispute in their own constituencies; particularly as Mrs Thatcher would, in Barnet, be obliged to oppose her own party.

So the ruling has simply been handed down. Barnet may not go comprehensive because Mrs Thatcher says so, just as Enfield, once upon a time, was supposed to do the opposite because Mr Gordon Walker said so. Enfield fought back. Barnet should do likewise. Unless national politicians are prepared to abolish the local education authorities altogether they must treat them with respect. Mrs Thatcher, like many of her predecessors, praises local democracy when she is in opposition and ignores it when in power.

A COUNTRY DIARY

THE LAKE DISTRICT: This weekend a Wasdale sheep farmer ran up and down more than 60 fells in the day, climbing a total height of much more than the height of Everest and covering something approaching 90 miles. The ground was done six years ago by a Lancashire man, and the Cumbrian wanted to better it adding, if possible, a couple more summits. This use of the Lake District mountains for the personal assessment of endurance began more than 100 years ago when an active clergyman ran up and down all the Wasdale hills in half a day. Later attempts embraced the principal 3,000 footers of Skiddaw, Helvellyn, and the Seafells, and, for very many years, it was regarded as a great feat to get round these four summits, with all the road walking in between, within 24 hours. But last weekend more than 100 mountaineers, most of them ordinary weekend fell walkers, completed this walk, most of them in many hours less than their allotted time and the fastest of them in about 10 hours. It is not so much that the mountains have been humbled, but more that young people—and several not so young—are realising the tremendous reserves of stamina that may be drawn upon by the really fit. Many people can run down mountainsides with ease, but the best of these young record-breakers can trot up them as well—and keep on doing it all day and night. This latest contender for "Lake District fell record" runs uphill better than some of us can get down, but has to take special pills against the cramp. And last year he failed to win an important fell race—only coming in second—because he had just been kicked by one of his cows.

HARRY GRIFFIN

DURING the dark Gaullist years, the Italians, in spite of their many domestic preoccupations, never ceased to press for the admission of Britain to the European Community and for the creation of a politically united and democratic Europe. The Italian Prime Minister, Mr Emilio Colombo, who arrived at Chequers last night, is like Mr Edward Heath, an alumnus of the class of '62. At that time he was the chief Italian negotiator in Brussels and he admits to having developed a great personal admiration for Mr Heath.

In Rome at the weekend, Mr Colombo told me in an interview: "Italy has always viewed the problem of Great Britain's entry into the Community in a predominantly political light. We are pleased that this view has finally prevailed over the important and delicate but, at the same time, narrow technical and economic considerations which formed the subject of the negotiations."

Mr Colombo's chief purpose in his discussions with Mr Heath will be to maintain the political momentum created by the success of the negotiations and, in particular, to find ways of resuming progress towards economic and monetary union, checked for the time being by the revaluation of the Deutschmark.

For the Italians the chief raison d'être of the Community has been political throughout. Twelve years ago their doubts about some of the economic consequences of membership were as pronounced as those in Britain today. According to Mr Colombo, Italy, then primarily an agricultural country, hoped to obtain some advantages for her citrus fruits and vegetables, but was fearful of the industrial implications. But today the Italian Prime Minister declares: "We were wrong. The reality is the reverse."

"Inside the European Community we discovered the thrust for the complete transformation of our economy. And I believe that by joining the Community and finding herself alongside the big economies of Germany and France, and also the Italian economy, Britain will also find the means for her economic transformation."

Mr Colombo produced lots of facts and figures. During the 12 years of the Community's existence Italy's national product had quadrupled. Her productivity had increased by 62 per cent. But the most staggering statistic, one which reveals the magnitude of Italy's industrial revolution and also goes a long way towards explaining the social problems which have accompanied it, concerned the changing pattern of the labour force.

Employment in industry increased from 5.5 million to 8.2 million, while employment on the land declined from 7.1



Premier Colombo (left): looking for progress towards economic and monetary union

PETER JENKINS
talks to the Italian Prime Minister



The Colombo plan for a closer Europe

million to 4 million. This has meant a huge movement of population, chiefly from the depressed south to the industrial north.

There were fears in Britain. I told the Prime Minister, that the Common Market might accentuate the draining of the regions into the South-eastern corner of the British Isles or, worse, that we might become the Ulster of Continental Europe. He denied that the Common Market had been the cause of Italy's distorted development and said that, in any case, he saw no parallel between the problems of Southern Italy and the problems of the British regions.

But he did agree that Britain and Italy had a common interest in the development of regional policies on a European scale: "I am really convinced that on this we can work together within the Community." But as Mr Colombo sees it, it is not a question of transferring Community resources from agriculture to regional development, but of creating additional Community funds for this purpose.

He attributed most of Italy's "serious social tensions" to the scale and rapidity of her economic transformation: they were not to be diagnosed as some "hidden sickness." Within a matter of a few years Italy had

become one of the world's leading industrial nations; a closed, protected economy had become open and competitive. "An upheaval of this order," he said, "in a static society, could not occur without shocks and lacerations. An entire way of life and all its values are being questioned."

The old political and social structures of Italy were resistant to the reforms made necessary by the economic transformation. "We want to reform our fiscal system and make it more just. We want to reform our universities and make higher education open to all. We must change our system of medical care. We have to provide low cost housing for the workers who have crowded into the cities of the North and bring capital and work to the South instead of bringing workers to the North."

"All this cannot be accomplished in a month and not without hitting vested interests. This explains to a great extent the worrying success of the Italian Social Movement (neo-Fascist) in our recent local elections, although it was limited to certain areas of the country which since the war have been traditional strongholds of the Right in one form or another."

The Prime Minister did not say so in so many words, but he gave me the impression that

at the root of the importance Italy attaches to the political unification of Europe is a desire to escape from her own politics, to break out of the constricting structures which cannot contain the economic miracle.

Mr Colombo will be sticking to his political guns in London this week. He remains faithful to the "federalist thesis" and an advocate still of direct elections to a representative European Parliament. But he does not come to London to challenge the political understandings reached between Mr Heath and President Pompidou at the Elysée. He tactfully describes what passed there not as an "agreement" but as an "exchange of views," not as the settling of a project but as the beginnings of a search.

Nevertheless, he gives a strong priority to the creation of an economic and monetary union (the two being inseparable) and believes that no such union could last long without a supporting political structure.

So Mr Colombo is as eager as ever to press his case for a United Europe Italian-style and, I suspect, hopes to find a potential ally in the British and in his old colleague of '62, Edward Heath. But Mr Colombo is also a modest man and confessed: "At this stage of the game we are prepared for a pragmatic solution."

The way to ease nuclear fear

TO THE EDITOR

Sir,—Frank Allaun is known throughout the Labour Party as a good and honest man, so what he says (Guardian, June 23) matters. In season and out he has been arguing that Anglo-French nuclear co-operation would "breach... the letter of the non-proliferation pact." Much as I share his view that such an arrangement would be unwise, I think he will find it difficult to substantiate this particular statement.

Can he quote in your columns the words in that notoriously porous treaty which he thinks forbid an Anglo-French nuclear weapons arrangement, or even a "West European nuclear force"? I think he will find here is a very neatly constructed loophole, in Articles I and II, which permits just those eventualities.

This is formal. On the substance: all nuclear proliferation has so far taken place when an exposed ally has had reason to doubt the ability or the will of a nuclear super-Power to sup-

port it against the other nuclear super-Power: Britain in 1945 when Truman decided to repudiate the Quebec and Hyde Park agreements, France in 1956 after Suez when the United States publicly connived with Khrushchev to militate against France, and China in 1958 when Khrushchev again failed to give support against American nuclear sabre-rattling.

So those who are worried about "the West German Generals" etc. should do their best to keep an American stake in West Europe. Better still, they should talk about the Soviet disarmament which will safely allow the Americans to go home. Mr Allaun will remember that the Soviet Government was able almost overnight to put its military men into Czechoslovakia than the US has ever had in Vietnam, and that they had nuclear weapons with them.

A newly formed Soviet committee for the promotion of a European Security Conference is about to approach social democrat parties and groups in

Western Europe. I hope all such groups will patiently explain that the nuclear weapons the Russians have worry us far more than those Social Democrat Germany doesn't have, doesn't want and is treaty bound not to get, and that if the Russian committee really wants to ensure that there will never be a Western European nuclear force, they will

tell their own Government that a bit of Russian arms race restraint would help, including the dismantling of their MRBMs (moving them to the Far East to beef up the threat to China would not answer). — Yours faithfully,

(Mrs) Elizabeth Young,
100 Bayswater Road,
London W 2.

SW Africa: the nonsense of 'Namibia'

Sir,—Having recently visited South West Africa, I could hardly resist the temptation to point out the nonsense of the word "Namibia" in your editorial of June 22. The position as far as "Bantustans" are concerned is completely different from that in South Africa. In South Africa the tribes are small and mutually hostile; the area given them is large and a great deal is being spent on water development which, when completed, will be able to make the first two Ovambo and Okavango, viable.

I saw two of the best high schools in Africa in Windhoek and in Oshana (Ovamboland). All the Ovambo leaders I met said that they had no interest in the UN or the concept of Namibia—all they wanted was to run their own affairs, which they were, in increasing extent, now able to do.

The Hereros would, of course, not agree as they still consider themselves the master-race as they were before their defeat by the Germans. As they only represent 6.4 per cent of the population against their traditional enemies the Damara, 8.1 per cent, and the Nama, 6.2 per cent, the UN would be unlikely to get a majority in any plebiscite. This view is reinforced by the fact that of the Ovambos 43.8 per cent have declared against the concept of Namibia and the whites at 16.8 per cent are the second largest group in the country.

South West Africa is nearly subsidised by the Republic of South Africa. The Government who in the last 15 years have developed good communications, irrigation schemes and some light industries. As South Africa supplies 90 per

cent of South West Africa's imports and takes 50 per cent of its exports it is clear that a UN takeover will not be economically possible, particularly as the key technical personnel are South Africans and could not be replaced in a hurry. The UN have little available funds or trained personnel so it would seem that "Namibia" as a political exercise makes economic nonsense, the implementation of which would be disastrous to all races living in South West Africa.

Patrick Wall, MP,
House of Commons.

Press freedom

Sir,—Oh, the sadness of it all! I've got to get worked up about you misquoting me about telling Harold Wilson and Robert Mellish not to get too worked up about the "distortions" which happened in that BBC programme, "Yesterday's Men."

Mr Wilson and the Labour Chief Whip, Mr Bob Mellish, are providing ammunition for those who argue that Press freedom is in danger, says today's "Tribune," writes your man Oliver Pritchett.

Both are providing ammunition for the Press and some people in television to, quite spuriously (my italics) argue that 'Press freedom' (original quotation marks) is in danger from the Labour Party. Was what I actually wrote. Quite some difference, isn't there? — Yours etc.,

Francis Flavius.

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Brahmanbaria: a tale of two armies

from MARTIN WOOLLACOTT in East Pakistan, Sunday

IT DIDN'T look too bad from the road but we had been told that whenever we crossed a bridge damaged by the Mukti Bahini it would be worth checking the nearby village.

The village was empty of people and all that was left of some 20 dwellings was an outline of black ash on the ground and one still standing bamboo and grass hut. We found a coloured calendar and a battered copy of "Advanced Accounting". That was all that was left except for a spilt mattress trailing in the village pond.

There must have been 100 people here not too long ago a Bengali in the village explained. Pointing to the damaged bridge, he said "Mukti Bahini" (Liberation Army). Pointing to the village he said "Pakistan military". Then he said "Indu". This was on the road that West Pakistan forces took on their way to liberate Brahmanbaria, some ten miles to the north. Whether the village was fired then or later we could not find out, and many others on the same road were intact.

But this burnt Hindu village proved a fair index of what to expect in the town itself.

Brahmanbaria is a fair-sized town some 50 miles north of Comilla and a couple of miles from the Indian border. In Awami League hands at the beginning of the troubles it was taken by the army in mid-April after the local EBR unit, the Fourth Battalion EBR, had fought and lost at Ashuganj, 20 miles to the west.

The town has been worked over. Whole streets are gone, rows of shops burnt-out, houses blasted and empty. The shops were apparently fired with incendiary grenades. A man with a cane on his head introduced himself as Aziz Mohammed. A member of the local peace committee asked how many the army killed. He replied: "Many, many." "Who did the army kill?" "Mostly those of the minority — Hindus," he says, spelling the word out. There are now not too many Hindus left in Brahmanbaria. They used to constitute some 30 per cent of the population.

A young man follows us

into a tea house to say that his mother has been killed by the army. Within a minute two members of the peace committee push through the curious crowd and sit down too. The young man goes silent, then abruptly leaves. The committee members, a young lawyer and a bank manager, say the army did not do all the burning. Miscreants did some and only a few people were killed.

Then they too are interrupted by a slightly sweating young captain of the Frontier Force Regiment whose colonel had told him on the phone that two journalists were coming. The captain was a charming and decent young man. He gave honest answers but, since his battalion was not the one that entered Brahmanbaria on April 17, he had no answers for the important questions.

He says the army has found no evidence of the killing of Hindus although in Comilla pro-army sources had insisted vehemently that 500 Hindus were killed in Brahmanbaria. It appeared too, he said, that the fourth EBR had probably not killed its West Pakistani

colonel and other West Pakistani officers but had taken them to India. "Yes," he said, "the army had to arrest many people, perhaps 100 in the town." Most had now been released.

An EBR detainee was brought in. A small frightened man, working his passage with great emotional protestations of loyalty to Pakistan, he claimed to have been taken forcibly to a training camp near Shagunbari. Indian officers, including Sikhs, were in the camp, he said.

In Comilla, which, unlike Brahmanbaria, was under army control right from March 25, a more business-like document is handed over. It lists items like: Dhirendra Dutta, an ex-Indian officer, arrested and reportedly killed; two sons of advocate Jati Vadera, one a medical student and the other a school student, killed in open daylight; Zahir Uddin, a pay and accounts officer of the Water and Power Development Authority, killed at his residence; K. D. Roy, a renowned medicine importer, arrested and reportedly

killed; the daughter of Atin Badra raped and missing.

The most recently dated item is the following: "Persons in the village, Amratoli, about four miles from Comilla, killed in open daylight only 10 days back include (1) Kazi Kafiluddin Ahmed, a clerk in the Comilla collectorate, (2) Kazi Afazuddin, Imam of the village mosque, (3) Cherag Ali Ashraf and his wife." Little of this can be tracked down. The army's easy answer to such lists is that those named have gone to India or are alive but under detention and in some cases this is no doubt true.

Out of a number of eye witness accounts of Comilla incidents, one stands out as illustrating the casual brutality of the early days and, because the witness is extremely reliable, it is worth telling.

A teenage boy had climbed a tree to get coconuts. Food was short at the time and the boy was up there when the curfew resumed. An army patrol at once challenged him and he called back he was coming down. The soldiers humoured him and drew lots as to

who was to shoot him. One raised his rifle and fired. With a bullet in his back the boy fell 20 feet on to the concrete pavement.

There are stories that go the other way, like the one of the officer who stopped two soldiers from shooting an off-duty Bengali policeman, or the martial law major who made soldiers return equipment they had looted from the nearby agricultural academy. Families who complain to the martial law office in Comilla now get a hearing and there is evidence that soldiers are being punished. What is above all undeniable, even if the pace of everything else has slowed and tempers have cooled, is that the pogrom against the Hindus took place and continues.

In another burnt out village we examined the heads of the Hindu gods at the village shrines which had all been deliberately decapitated. Whether this village had been attacked by the army or the Bihari militia we could not establish, but the army's anger has been displaced on to the Hindu

community, and this at every level. Pakistani officers are obsessed with Indian involvement, refusing to see it as secondary, and insisting in the teeth of the facts that Hindus were secretly prominent in the council of the Awami League.

What can reasonably safely be asserted about the Comilla district is that there was killing, rape, looting, and burning. A lot took place at the beginning, less later, little now. Much of this was directed at the Hindu community, much of it was done by small units, patrols, or sections without officers. There were decent officers trying to bring the troops under control. There were other officers who could not care less about dead Bengalis, particularly Hindu Bengalis.

Most, whether decent or otherwise, were operating on the belief that they were nipping a Hindu influenced conspiracy in the bud and that, if they had not struck first, the Bengalis would have killed them and their families. Although the worst is over for the moment, peace is not in sight. Mukti Bahini only a few days ago shot up a train

and a line repair gang some 15 miles in from the border and the pacification of villages goes on.

Even where there is no killing there is gratuitous brutality of which we had an illustration returning to Dacca. While we were waiting for a ferry boat across a river we saw a burly grey shirted policeman angrily calling in a boat which was nosing into the river bank. Reversing his rifle, he harried the two boatmen up the slope with vicious blows with the butt in the kidneys. Then he shouted some more, punctuating his words by smashing one boatman across the chest and throat with his heavy fist. It must have been all of one minute after curfew.

A group of Bengalis who had just finished evening prayer watched silently. Returning to us, the policeman indicated the group, all so small and fragile compared to his Punjabi bulk and weight, and said: "Those men are dangerous. One night they will come to police house and try to kill us." He is surely right.

LINDA CHRISTMAS on the secret investigation to find whether British children like an American TV show.

Open Sesame

"SESAME STREET"—to show or not to show? The debate goes on. And to judge from a report which has just been delivered to the ITA the debate is not finished yet. "Sesame Street" is the American children's television programme which entertains as it educates. The problem is whether it is worth polluting our air with "trash-cans" and other assorted American jargon in an attempt to raise the linguistic potential of our pre-school children.

Harlech Television set up a 10-day trial run of the programme and asked Frank Blackwell, head of the Primary Extension Programme at the National Council for Educational Technology, to make a report. Sadly, and somewhat predictably for an educational document, the report makes no attempt to be conclusive.

There is no convenient paragraph saying that "x" per cent of the viewers (in this case parents, teachers and a medley of field research officers) said, "Yes" to the possibility of a permanent showing, and that "y" per cent said "No." Instead, the document presents a selection of opinions from the three groups and leaves the reader to make up his own mind. On balance, after careful reading, the opinions are favourable. The ball is now firmly back in the ITA court. It is up to them to decide whether the hour-long programme which breaks up the more traditional story-telling and game-playing activities of children's television with "commercial" designed to teach youngsters the alphabet, counting, and recognition of numbers, letters, shapes and sizes is worth precious broadcasting time.

Ten questions asking for an answer to "x" rating of children's interest and participation in the programme, their appreciation of the cartoons, the film inserts, the humour and repetition, revealed more "a"s and "b"s than "c"s and "d"s. Although, admittedly, the response from the three-five-year-olds in pre-school play-groups and nursery schools was lower than from five-year-olds in infant schools.

The teachers' assessment of the value of the programme was encouraging, with a high number of "b"s ratings, and most parents feel that "Sesame Street" was sufficiently worthwhile to make it a permanent feature.

In addition, the report throws up an interesting view from Special Schools for older children with low IQs where the children found the programme particularly stimulating. The noisy, fast-paced techniques aided their concentration and held their attention.

But the picture begins to fade when the reservations to the generally favourable reviews are taken into consideration. There are a number of specific moans, the most worrying being that the programme loses a lot when not seen in colour, as the most numerous being that the programme is too long by half.

Furthermore, it is not difficult to detect throughout the report a yen for a British version "with a gentler more intimate approach," "grafting some of 'Sesame Street's' punchiness, down-to-earthness and lessons on inter-personal relationships on to the good things in many UK educational programmes." Would it really be necessary to swap the shuns of Harlem for those of Hackney or Huddersfield? The report lists the implications of a British version but does not discuss them in detail. The most important consideration is financial—a lot of unguessed version. It is a report that takes us into a flight of fantasy by suggesting a three-pronged effort based on independent financing and the cooperation of both the BBC and ITA. "Such an enterprise would command the respect of the public," indeed it would! Over to you, ITA.



REAGAN: a dent in the image

Ronnie up a muddy creek

from MALCOLM DEAN, Los Angeles, Sunday

NOTHING SEEMS to be going right for Ronald Reagan recently. First, there was the embarrassing exposure—particularly for a Governor who had always talked about the need for taxes to hurt—that the Governor had no income tax at all in 1970.

No sooner had the Governor belatedly admitted the fact, while at the same time admonishing the press for prying into his private affairs, than a second lead had been established that there had been not one but two years in which the Governor had not paid income tax while in power.

Then, earlier this month, his image as a loyal party fund raiser took a dent with the disclosure that his fee for speaking at Republican fund-raising dinners was a cool £10,000 a time. Even at the present rate on inflation, it was felt to be somewhat steep. The Governor graciously agreed, in the face of a threatened boycott of a Massachusetts dinner, to address last week to cut his fee to about £4,000 for the event.

But the press had not yet finished digging. Following up a tip, the "New York Times" man in San Francisco set out for Wyoming, Nevada, and Montana where he found the Governor had invested several thousand dollars in Oppenheimer

Industries, which uses the prewar taxes granted to breeders to make large tax savings for its clients.

The first Reagan Cattle Company contracts were negotiated only 20 months after he had become Governor, the contracts being signed by William French Smith, the Governor's close friend and lawyer, who was appointed to the University of California's Board of Regents by Reagan and has since become chairman.

As if all this was not enough the Ripon Society of the Republican Left and the Young Americans for Freedom on the Republican Right keep talking about a Reagan presidential campaign. There is probably nothing more attractive to the Governor than the thought of the White House, but in a party which puts such a premium on loyalty, no member can be seen to be undermining his party leader.

For the moment Nixon is secure, and no one is more aware of that than Reagan. A telegram was dispatched swiftly to the YAFs asking them to cease and desist. Talk of a Reagan campaign at this time can only damage Reagan's chances, should Nixon stumble or decide like Lyndon Johnson not to run for a second term.

Reagan has publicly pledged his loyalty to Nixon more than once, but in his

latest crusade against welfare he has staked out a position to the Right of the President which many believe would guarantee him the nomination, should it come on the market. Significantly, Governor Nelson Rockefeller, too, has suddenly taken a much tougher line on welfare in New York State.

The latest poll in the "Los Angeles Times" places Reagan at the bottom of a league testing the public's trust of elected officials. Memories are short, but the mud that presently mars the Reagan image can be re-stirred at an appropriate time.

Before the last election, polls suggested it was Reagan's apparent honesty and sincerity which were his best assets. One politician observed at the time that Reagan himself seemed to be unable to make up his mind on whether "he was born in a log cabin or a manger." His future opponents should have less trouble in attacking his integrity.

So far California Democrats have all but ignored the Governor's use of legal tax dodging devices. Some of them are probably using the same devices. But Jess Unruh, the former Democratic Speaker in the State Legislature who ran unsuccessfully against Reagan last year, based much of his campaign on the unfair tax laws

for the rich. It was well known that Reagan was backed by a coterie of conservative millionaires.

Unruh even went to the home of Henry Salvatori, Reagan's strongest backer, to accuse the right wing oil millionaire in front of a television crew of not paying property taxes at the proper rate. (The incident backfired because many Californians appeared to be more incensed by Unruh's invasion of Salvatori's privacy than Salvatori's use of the tax laws.)

Unruh, who is thinking of running for mayor of Los Angeles in 1974, regards the silence of the Democrats on the latest disclosures as "another indication of the desperation of our situation. We have to remove the influence of rich men in our politics. We need to move to a position of public financing of political campaigns. The idea does seem to be getting more public support, and the foundations are studying it. Perhaps we could then end the oil depletion (tax) allowances, and start making insurance companies pay taxes for the first time."

Reagan has declared that he will not run for a third term as Governor. An announcement by President Nixon that the Governor would make an official tour of Japan next autumn has raised speculation that this is a

preparatory course in foreign affairs, before standing for the Senate against Democrat Alan Cranston in 1974.

There will be a lot of pressure from the Republican party on Reagan to make the race. In many ways it would seem to suit him perfectly, allowing him a platform whenever he wanted it without the administrative problems that a Governor faces.

Bill Boyarsky, who spent 10 years as a reporter in the State capital and wrote a book on Reagan, disagrees: "He is too fond of California. He is a mini-President here. If he went to the Senate, he would have to work hard to succeed and stand out. He does not like working hard. He and his wife like the ranch life."

But life for the Governor is not as easy as it used to be. Now both Houses in the State Legislature and several key State jobs are controlled by the Democrats. It is not so easy to push through tax packages helping the property owners at the expense of the poor.

The damage Reagan's cuts caused to the State's schools and universities is becoming more obvious and causing more concern. The Senate could become more attractive. And for a man with such a large ego, the appeals of the party's leaders to run "for the party" may be irresistible.

ROUGHLY 150 people, at 16 sites around Britain, gazed into the often cloudy heavens on Saturday night and through into Sunday morning. Reported sightings during the annual national skywatch of the British Unidentified Flying Object Research Association (hereafter BUFO) amounted to one orange light, which was probably a helicopter, at Dunmow, the expected crop of satellites, which made for some folk the highlights of an astronomical occasion, a few meteors, and four rabbits.

"I don't know how they got in," said the skywatch organiser, Lincoln Richford, at 11 o'clock yesterday morning. "I'm a bit slow. I'm a bit tired." He spent his night at a central reporting point in London. The watchers, when they felt like pumping blood through their veins, relied on the serviceability of the nearest combox. Headquarters received about 35 calls.

The "event" of the weekend was outside the skywatch—described as a bright light in the sky near Sheffield early on Saturday afternoon. The watchers for 14 minutes until approached by something like a smoke-ring, and unexplained so far by the RAF. Yet the watch was a success of sorts. We got the groups out, they phoned in, we put the practice in.

Gentlemen in England then abed may scoff if they wish. BUFO is used to it. But, since the first reported sighting of "flying saucers" in America 24 years ago, a weight of evidence has accumulated which scientists can neither explain nor entirely explain away. One needs a very closed mind not to feel that, just possibly, there's something happening in our atmosphere not covered by the textbooks.

The oddest thing about the ufologists on Pewley Downs, just outside Guildford, was their evenness. They were indeed rather pointedly orthodox people, often with a scientific bent: a man in the Indian army, a police cadet, a short-haired undergraduate, a local paper journalist, a man in computers—in sum a slightly conservative group, and not necessarily with a small "c."

They were there to watch for UFOs, but also to get used to natural phenomena and to develop the teamwork needed in the event of a "flap," which is UFO language for an outburst of inexplicable activity. Perhaps the second cause was best served. In spite of intermittent rain the view was marvellous. Jupiter brought jollity. There were stars and ordinary aircraft. Satellites were seen, though not by my blurred and bemused eyes. (Just try staring into the night sky when you're not quite sure what you're looking for.) A practical experiment was

Spirits and the sky

CHRISTOPHER FORD on a UFO hunt



carried out. There had been a sighting from the downs of a sausage-shaped light over by Hindhead, ten miles away. A group drove there and let off three rockets. We saw them, through binoculars, as merely the briefest sparks. So shop-bought fireworks were certainly not the explanation. They'll try heavier rockets next year.

It looked a fair example of the approach. BUFO does not encourage visionary gullibility. "We have a sighting," it's recorded," explained Ivar Mackay, a past chairman, "and then we try to explain it away." Remembering my function, he added apologetically: "We can't conjure them up..." He had brought a UFO detector, more properly an electro-magnetic field detector.

"It's a social occasion. I don't really expect to see anything," somebody admitted. "When the army go on manoeuvres they don't expect to catch the Russians," added another: a typical simile? There was more talk about "preparing for a flap." The

words "interdimensional" and "extraterrestrial" were aired. It was cold. Soup was brewed in the BUFO mobile. Shamingly, the press alone seemed to have brought something stronger.

There was time to test people's faith. Nobody took an overly spiritual view of UFOs, though the Surrey group I was with have a clergyman rather noticeably on their board of consultants. "We're not hippies, we're not Jesus-is-coming-down-on-a-saucer," said Ivar Mackay, the former Indian army man. "There are so many of these gimmicky ideas going round. But there's a massive weight of evidence that unidentified do exist in our atmosphere and are seen from time to time, sometimes very close. I'm not so interested in lights in the sky. I'm more interested when people are buzzed on roads."

Omar Fowler, pilot turned BUFO spokesman, BUFO's national coordinator, was still more cautious: "I believe there are things flying about. I've interviewed so many people, they can't all be liars or unbalanced. Judging by our present-day knowledge it's impossible for a spacecraft to travel from another galaxy. There are so many theories. I'm just interested in finding out."

He reckons that perhaps half a dozen of the reports of actual landings in Britain in the past five years sound as if they might be authentic, but he thinks people tend to keep quiet for fear of ridicule. He agrees that there are the sensation-seekers, too. "I believe in instruments. I don't like witnesses at all," declared Edgar Hatvani, a voluble Czech-born BOAC engineer who used to organise the national skywatch. "You can never rely on witnesses. But nearly every 24 hours on average someone in Britain sees something sufficiently remarkable that he does something about it. You go to investigate, you go to someone's door and find he's a doctor or something—why should he make it up?"

Hatvani has seen things he can't explain. His colleagues, even those who have not, share the faith; a lot of Christians, after all, believe in miracles without having seen any. BUFO, with its magazines and study-groups, goes doggedly on even if support for the skywatch itself tends to dwindle. But are the UFOs benevolent, hostile, or merely explanatory? Nobody knows, and if they have private theories they weren't telling me about them.

"There are more things in heaven and earth, etc." might be BUFO's motto. Laugh them all away if you are bold and sure enough. After half the night on Pewley Downs I am not. "Don't criticise what you can't understand," Bob Dylan isn't yet in the standard dictionaries of quotations, but perhaps he ought to be.



Whoever said "here today, gone tomorrow" could be absolutely right

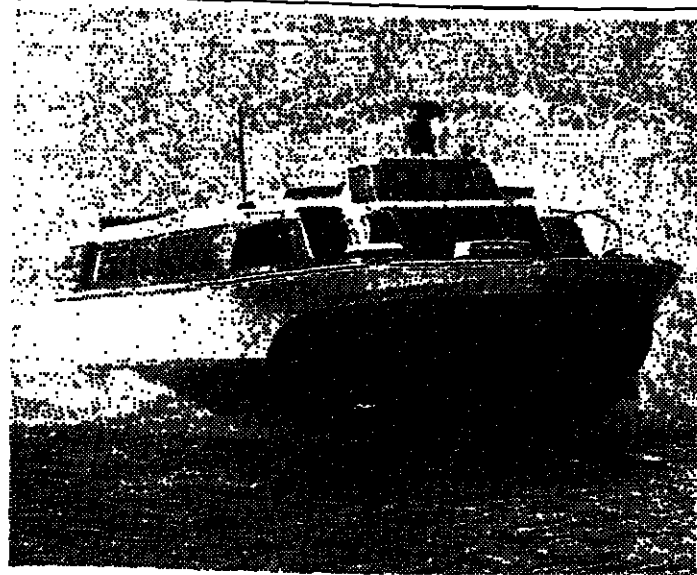
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HOVERCRAFT

a special report

Right: New version of the BHC SR-N6 hovercraft for Brunel.
Below: The HTI 101 hovertrailer.



Adolescent problems of an infant prodigy

DAVID FAIRHALL ON THE STATE OF THE INDUSTRY

THE position of the British hovercraft industry today could be compared to one of its own product, slithering into the trough of a wave, not quite sure how it can rise above the next crest rearing up before it. The exhilaration that accompanied the early commercial ventures, first across the Solent and then the open Channel, has gone. For some time now it has been replaced by cool, cautious calculation as to what amphibious or sidewall craft can really do for the ferry operator in financial terms once the novelty has worn off. And for the moment, there is no new customer for the British Hovercraft Corporation's big N4 hovercraft car ferry, on

which many hopes were pinned. The Government too is hesitating. It has invested £31 millions in a major hovertrain experiment but since last year's election it has still not made up its mind on the scale of financial support, if any, it intends to offer the marine side of the industry.

But then the manufacturers have not been pleading for subsidies. And once one accepts that the industry is not going to enjoy the mushroom growth that many people originally expected, with hover frigates patrolling the Western approaches and hover freighters shuttling cargo across the Atlantic within a few years of the first craft appearing off Cowes, there are after all some solid reasons for optimism.

Take, for example, the N4

ferry services operated across the Channel by Hoverlloyd (Ramsgate to Calais) and British Rail's Seaspeed (Dover to Boulogne) with winter service to Calais). The torn hover skirts that produced so many delays and repair bills in the early days have been greatly improved in both design and materials. Reliability has steadily improved, just as it did with the small N6 on the Solent. And both operators are forecasting profits: Hoverlloyd this year and British Rail at some stage in 1972. In fact they have both comfortably exceeded their traffic forecasts.

With another big Middle Eastern contract under negotiation, BHC is evidently getting some solid results from the effort it has devoted to these military and para-military

markets over the past few years. It is also following up a number of specialised civil applications, such as airport crash rescue where the approach or take-off is over water. Two N6s have already been sold to Auckland International airport in New Zealand for this purpose.

In short, the hovercraft may not have swept conventional craft from the short sea ferry routes in the way that many people hoped and predicted in the early days, but it is slowly searching out the odd situations scattered round the world where its unique combination of high speed and an amphibious ability enable it to do a useful job for military or commercial operators. A fragmented market perhaps, but a useful one when the pieces are

gathered together. BHC has almost completed the production line of sixty N6s it originally laid down.

Meanwhile, Hovermarine Transport and Vosper are exploring the commercial potential of sidewall hovercraft driven by water screws rather than air propellers. Vosper's VTI has not yet gone into service but it is being evaluated for ferry work in the Channel Islands and the Southampton firm can be relied upon, with its unrivalled experience of building fast patrol boats, to exploit whatever military potential its craft possesses.

The hovercraft was an infant prodigy of whom too much was expected too soon. But left to develop at its own pace, it may have a successful adult career ahead of it.

Ready to take off

by HUGH COLVER

AS with all pioneer industries in the transport field, the hovercraft industry has had its ups and downs, its successes and its disappointments. In the early days the hovercraft was seen as a major step forward in the movement of people and goods around the world—a "transport revolution" was talked about by some. That has not happened, at least not yet, and if it does it will be a gradual process involving many more ups and downs, successes and disappointments.

However, not only have certain things not happened but other things have happened which came as something of a surprise to early hovercraft protagonists. Notable examples are the immense success in the military environment and in the special charter field, particularly in survey work.

One is tempted to wonder where Britain's major manufacturer, the British Hovercraft Corporation, would be today without a spate of military orders in recent years—large orders from countries like Iran and Saudi Arabia quite apart from Britain's own armed forces. It is perhaps significant that whereas BHC advertising of a few years ago talked about "new transport for a new decade," it now talks more often in terms of "a new dimension in defence flexibility."

Does this mean that they see military sales as the major outlet for the future? If the answer is "yes" then the hovercraft will fail to fulfil its promise, for even massive investment by the Governments of the world for their armed forces would not make the potential in the civil market. Wherever there is a ferry ship operating there is a hovercraft market, and at least some of this potential must be realised if the hovercraft industry is to survive as anything more than a military-oriented industry spinning off into a few specialist civil markets.

Disappointment

Perhaps the biggest disappointment of recent years is the progress of the BHC SR-N4 (Mountbatten Class) project—the craft which is carrying passengers and cars across the Channel under the British Rail (Seaspeed) and Hoverlloyd (Ramsgate to Calais) services. In spite of the early troubles of these operators, particularly craft unreliability, the disappointment does not lie in the operations themselves, for the craft are now extremely reliable and traffic is growing steadily. The disappointment is BHC's—and shared by anyone with an interest in the future of the industry. For in spite of the fact that the SR-N4s have been operating for three years, the Channel operators are still alone. No other orders for the craft have been received.

When the SR-N4 was launched as the first mixed traffic hoverferry, and by far the largest craft ever built, there were a number of ferry operators round the world casting interested eyes towards BHC's Cowes factory and the Channel-proving ground. None of them actually ordered craft then, saying they would watch the N4 prove itself first. Unfortunately for BHC and its operators, in the early months scheduled services were run on what amounted to a trials operation. The results are well known.

Nevertheless, in spite of the short time that elapsed between craft roll-out and the start of scheduled services, they kept going and business grew to a stage where today Seaspeed and

Hoverlloyd carry almost a quarter of the cross-Channel ferry traffic. However, the early troubles cannot have encouraged the wary prospective customers. And, in spite of the relative success of the operations in 1970 and this year, those potential buyers are not encouraged by Seaspeed's announcement of a record 1970 loss of £421,000.

The plain fact is that the SR-N4 is too expensive to run in the competitive environment of sea ferries, where it is competing with ships that have become much faster than the old ferries and aircraft that offer a fast crossing quite cheaply. To be competitive, hovercraft have to fill this speed/cost gap.

Waterscrews

This raises the question of the aerospace orientation of BHC's hovercraft production. The N4 uses four expensive turbines to drive four huge propellers, and a great deal of money has been spent on retaining the amphibious quality just for the sake of climbing on to a concrete apron at terminal. There are those who think the hovercraft industry should be more realistic about intensive sea route operations and get down to simpler structures, powered perhaps by diesel engines driving waterscrews rather than propellers.

This raises a point for the future concerning the military orientation of hovercraft production. A craft built with the military in mind will never be designed for commercial use. Designs for military craft do not have to pay much attention to cost and passenger comfort, two vital factors in commercial operations.

BHC, however, does not have a monopoly. Vosper Thornycroft, relative newcomers to hovercraft manufacturing, have produced their first VT-1—a craft designed with the requirements of Hovertravel Ltd., the Solent SR-N6 (Winchester Class) operators, very much in mind. Smaller than the SR-N4, the VT-1 will carry 148 passengers and ten cars. Turbine engines are used, but only two of them, and they do not drive air propellers but waterscrews. The craft is semi-amphibious in that it can nose on to a terminal for unloading and quick turnaround. Hovertravel propose to operate the VT-1 between the Channel Islands and France.

Another British manufacturer, Bell Aerospace, started out as BHC's American licensee, and with US Government contracts under its belt now has an extensive programme for craft of its own, starting with the new SES-100B (SES stands for Surface Effect Ship, an American name for hovercraft). Again, the Bell programme is mainly military. British fears that the Americans could get ahead are not unfounded. Although they are behind in terms of experience, they have the advantage of Government support.

Of the other countries competing for the world lead, France must come next. SEDAM N-300 90-passenger craft have been operating trial

services in the Mediterranean for some time and development work has Government support.

An area where the French have an undoubted lead is hovertrains. The Aerotrain, as the French call it, was the brainchild of Jean Bertin, a number of prototype trains have been tested on experimental tracks. Now an 80-passenger train is operating on a 18-kilometre track south of Paris and speeds of 175 mph have been achieved.

Britain's efforts in this direction are concentrated on a test track in Cambridgeshire built for Tracked Hovercraft Ltd. THL have a test vehicle and are making studies for possible applications in Britain, the US, Canada and Germany.

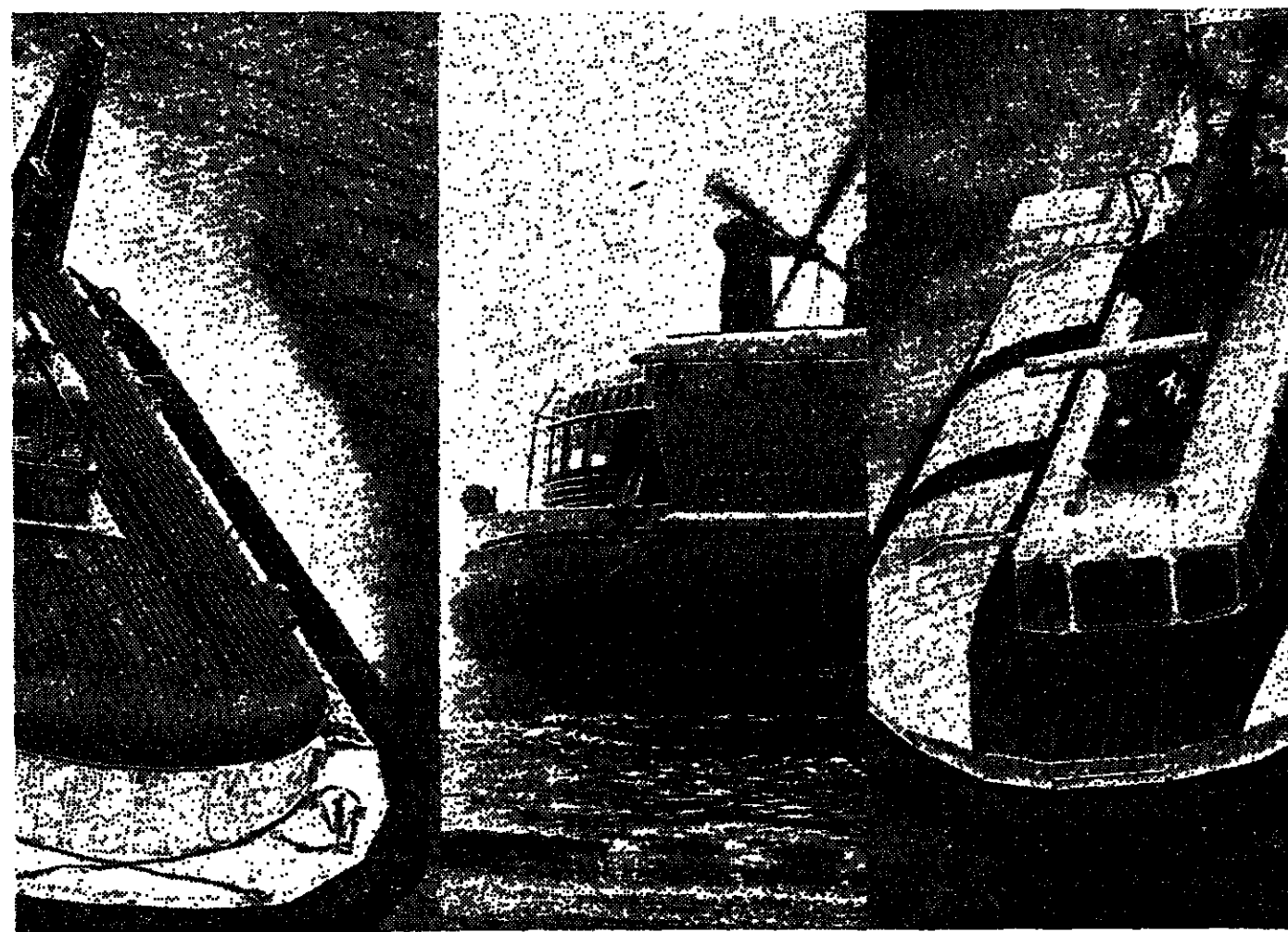
Other applications of the hovercraft principle are numerous. They include the use of an air cushion lifting system to move oil tanks from site to site; a special hover transporter to take heavy transformers over bridges which could not possibly take the load otherwise; hoverpallets for freight handling; and an air cushion landing system for military aircraft which is being developed in the United States. It will be seen that hovercraft are making inroads into a whole variety of traditional transport and movement systems. All that is required is commercially viable craft and the right kind of support and the dreams of the early protagonists could still come true. This industry is not in the doldrums. It has been through a rough patch and is now ready to take off having learned the lessons of the past in the best possible way—the hard way.

Rough patch

Another British manufacturer, Cushioncraft Ltd., an offshoot of the Britten-Norman aircraft concern, has been through a rough patch, during which the company was offered for sale. There were no takers, and now the company has taken on a new lease of life after demonstrations in South America which could result in orders from Brazil. The craft is the small, multi role CC-7, which uses an integrated lift/propulsion system, has excellent manoeuvrability and unique control systems.

As is well known, the Americans have not been idle. Most of their effort used to be on the military side, including the operational use of British-designed machines in Vietnam. Now, however, two 100-ton craft, designed as prototypes of future trans-oceanic craft, are nearing the trials stage. One manufacturer, Bell Aerospace, started out as BHC's American licensee, and with US Government contracts under its belt now has an extensive programme for craft of its own, starting with the new SES-100B (SES stands for Surface Effect Ship, an American name for hovercraft). Again, the Bell programme is mainly military. British fears that the Americans could get ahead are not unfounded. Although they are behind in terms of experience, they have the advantage of Government support.

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On the day of the censure debate on the economy in the House of Commons, Dr Jeremy Bray, who was for a period a minister in the Wilson Government, argues that one reason for the unexpectedly high level of unemployment is that the Treasury uses forecasting methods which give poor results, and outlines a different approach which performs better

Will there be a million unemployed?

THE METHODS used in the Treasury for forecasting unemployment were published in "Economic Trends" in 1968, and previously in the National Institute economic review in August 1964. It is not possible precisely to reconstruct the official forecasts of unemployment because ad hoc adjustments are made to each forecast according to past errors and the judgment of the forecasting team, and the forecasts themselves are not published. But it is possible to reconstruct sufficient of the process to see where the difficulties lie.

The most serious defect is that the Treasury forecasting method builds in, as an assumption, which it does not test, Professor Fisher's theory of a "rate of growth of productive potential," which is not affected by the pressure of demand or the level of unemployment.

While the first account of the method in 1964 was entitled "Long Term Growth and Short Term Policy," Treasury economists now describe it more cautiously as a means of making short-term forecasts of unemployment. However, this modest description does not alter the algebra, and "productive potential" still is the only basis used in Whitehall for calculating the medium-term growth prospects of the economy, on which public expenditure planning, essentially a medium-term activity, is based.

The Treasury forecast basically assumes that unemployment is proportional to the departure of GDP from a pre-ordained growth path. If this growth path is still around, and the Treasury model is right, then we can expect one million unemployed this winter, and it is as likely to be higher as it is to be lower.

Figure 1 shows actual unemployment (quarterly averages of

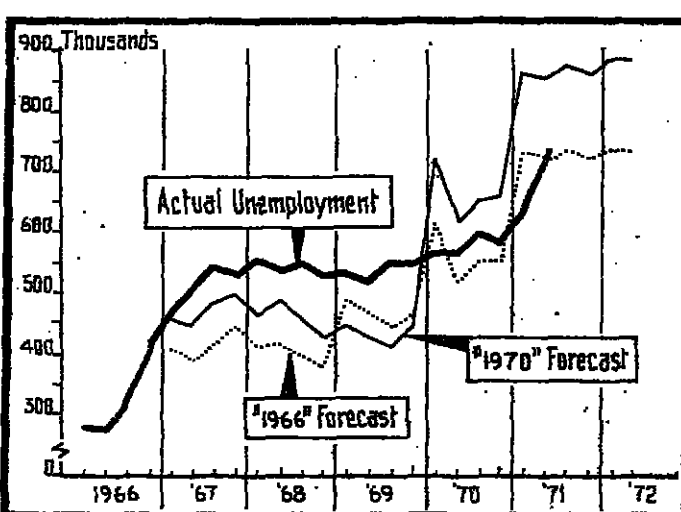


FIGURE 1: This shows the forecasts that would have been produced by the Treasury method had no ad hoc adjustments been made in the light of experience. The "1966" forecast is based on the relationship between GDP and unemployment observed to the end of 1966: the other is based on behaviour up to the end of 1970. The "forecasts" are based on actual movements in GDP up to the end of 1970, and the forecasts given in the 1971 financial statement for 1971 and 1972, and give levels for "equilibrium unemployment"—the level expected after a period in which output grows in line with productive potential. As can be seen, the Treasury model gives poor results on this basis—hence the need for ad hoc adjustments which make it very hard to test the underlying assumptions.

wholly unemployed, excluding school leavers, seasonally corrected, and "equilibrium unemployment" forecast according to the Treasury method. For 1971 and 1972 the levels of GDP assumed are those forecast in the Government's 1971 financial statement accompanying the Budget. Figure 1 gives two forecasts of unemployment, using equations derived from behaviour up to the end of 1966, and up to the end of 1970 respectively.

Using the Treasury's own methods, and assuming GDP takes the course forecast by the Treasury in the light of the Budget, it will be seen that the forecast of "equilibrium

"equilibrium unemployment" forecasts would be higher still. Now, the Treasury's general assessment of the economic situation in May said: "Unemployment has risen faster than would have been expected on the basis of past relationships, from the movement of output," while figure 1 suggests that the forecast should be higher than the actual.

The reason for the discrepancy probably lies in the ad hoc adjustments made when earlier forecasts went astray. In 1967 and 1968 actual unemployment turned out much higher than the forecasts. So an upward adjustment of the forecasts was made. Then in the latter part of 1969 and 1970, unemployment turned out lower than forecast "equilibrium unemployment," which in the forecasts must have been further increased by the adjustments carried over from 1967 and 1968, to give forecasts for the winter of 1969-70 still higher than the out-turn.

These in turn may have led to amplified downward adjustments of the forecasts of unemployment in 1971, causing the adjusted forecasts to fall below the out-turn, while the unadjusted "equilibrium unemployment" forecast is above the out-turn. There may have been a series of over-corrections.

This "wheel wobble" on the adjustments might not be obvious even if Ministers were allowed to see the forecasts given to the previous Government, since GDP itself may not have followed the course assumed when the forecast was made. This unemployment forecast for the winter of 1969-70 may not, in fact, have been very much higher than the out-turn because the growth of GDP between the second half of 1969 and the first half of 1970 was forecast at 1.7 per cent in the 1969 financial statement,

while the actual growth turned out to be negative.

What is worse, the "wobble," and certainly its dynamics, may not have been obvious to the forecasters themselves, because the adjustments are not made systematically, but by ad hoc judgments in which the forecasters believe they are taking into account economic behaviour not covered by the form of the equations.

The trouble about this is that when the forecasts still do not turn out right, the forecaster can go on inventing ad hoc explanations of ever increasing errors. Commonsense checks will prevent the errors accumulating beyond a certain point, but that point could be quite sufficient to cause "stop-go" behaviour, because policy is based on false assumptions, amplifying the random variations that occur in the system into a full stop-go cycle.

It was interesting, therefore, to find a general forecasting method, described in a paper I read to the Royal Statistical Society in January, which gave forecasts from the end of each

year since 1963 which were significantly more accurate than the Treasury method.

Figure 2 shows the expected level of unemployment given by the 1971 financial statement forecast of GDP (produced in March), and its standard error (or root mean square error) range.

It also shows the expected level of unemployment given by the later National Institute forecast, with more recent evidence on unemployment and GDP movements in the first half of 1970. If the National Institute forecasts of GDP are fulfilled, the probability is that unemployment will exceed one million next winter.

On the Treasury relationships without more recent adjustments, unemployment would be expected to rise higher still.

The reason why this behaviour differs from the Treasury forecasts is that the relationship found to fit best was between the rate of growth of GDP and the rate of increase in unemployment, with little long-term relationship between GDP and the absolute level of unemployment.

economic model-building is that control theory relies on sophisticated mathematics to work out the relationship between the movement of important economic quantities simply by studying their past behaviour.

The economists at the Treasury, like other economists, start with an equation based on an economic theory, and feed in more theories when the first proves inadequate. The difficulty with the Bray method is to find the economic meaning behind the relationships observed, and the Treasury method is a matter of more or less inspired guesswork to discover why forecasts keep going wrong.

ment, which can and does vary substantially due to causes unrelated to changes in GDP.

This statistical approach yields forecasts which appear reasonably in line with what has already happened (especially on the National Institute forecasts), and a more realistic estimate of events in the first half of 1971 than the Treasury was able, earlier, to make).

It is hard to believe that even a Conservative Government, if it had based its policy on such a forecast, would have doubted the need for an earlier stimulus to demand, or would now doubt that such a stimulus was overdue.

Any government has also to consider wage and price behaviour, consumer demand, investment, imports, and exports. But it is unlikely that forecasts of these are better than of unemployment.

The obvious course is to use modern methods, and those described here, on these other relationships. It may be possible to achieve some improvement in the analysis underlying macro-economic management by the application of these methods first developed in engineering and process control.

But I believe the more important result will be to identify the inherent limitations of our system of macro-economic management, and face us with the choice of accepting the limitations or developing a better system.

*The Treasury model consists of mathematical equations whereby the level of employment and unemployment can be predicted if the values of certain other variables are assumed. The most important of these other variables is total output, or the Gross Domestic Product. The higher GDP, the lower is unemployment. In fact, for any particular course of GDP, the adjustment piled one on to synthetic concept "equilibrium

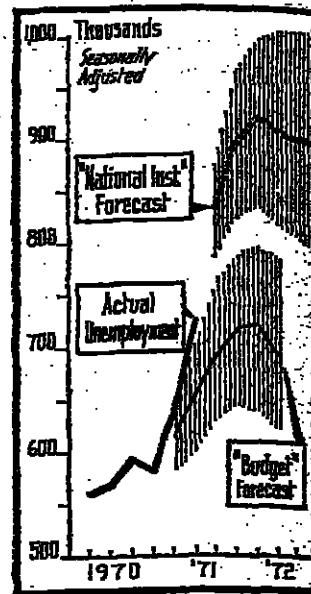


FIGURE 2: These forecasts of time-series analysis using Dr Bray's approach control theory show the levels of unemployment that would have been expected on the basis of the 1971 financial statement (the "Budget" forecasts), and a more realistic estimate of events in the first half of 1971 than the Treasury was able, earlier, to make).

unemployment" is forecast, which forecast employed adjusts from its current level with a time lag. Forecast unemployment is then derived from forecast employment. Because in practice forecasts of recent past levels of employment and unemployment are error, the forecasts are adjusted by a factor extrapolating an average of recent past error judged to reflect what is happening. It must be extremely difficult to unravel all the adjustments piled one on to synthetic concept "equilibrium of the other."

Auditors stress doubts on Swan Hunter write-offs

In their report to Swan Hunter shareholders, the company's auditors, Price Waterhouse and Co., draw attention to the directors' remarks in a note to the accounts on provisions for losses on fixed-price shipbuilding contracts.

But the auditors say that, subject to the outcome of these contracts, the accounts give a "true and fair view" of the company's position.

In the note the directors say that in spite of provision against losses on fixed-price shipbuilding contracts of £7.6 million in 1970 and £5 million in 1969, it is impossible to say whether these provisions will be sufficient.

The note points out that the last of the contracts concerned is not due for completion until 1973. Estimates of losses therefore involve an assessment of the extent to which costs are likely to escalate in the next two years. "The directors consider it virtually impossible to forecast the outcome of these shipbuilding contracts accurately," the note remarks.

The accounts, which show a net loss to shareholders of £1.9 million, also reveal that chairman Sir John Hunter's salary rose from £36,000 to £40,000 in 1970.

His shareholdings in the company (which include the family interests of a minor) were reduced during the year. Sir John's holding of ordinary shares declined from 5,480 to 5,500, and his holding of the 7 1/2 per cent loan stock from 2,642 to 403.

In his annual statement, Sir John says the shipbuilding subsidiary "should soon be able to make good its recent heavy losses." He says the general financial position of the group, including the state of liquidity, remains satisfactory.

'Averys' real estate double book value

The value of the properties of weighing machine manufacturer Averys is almost double the book value before depreciation shown in the company's accounts, according to the directors.

In its report with the full accounts, the board says the value of the group's properties, which are held for manufacturing and trading activities, is 25 millions more than the book value. The book value in the accounts is just over £5 million before depreciation. After depreciation it is a little over £4 million.

In his annual statement, the

chairman, Mr Leonard Barrows, says turnover reached a record level in the second half of the previous financial year and has since continued at this level. The order book is still high but the general economic situation at home makes forecasting more than usually difficult.

Results for the first six months of last year were poor when compared with the first half of the current year which will show a considerable improvement.

The second half of the year is more difficult to forecast but, after balancing all the factors presently known, the directors believe that results for the current year will match those for 1970-71.

Production of paper down 11 pc

During the first four months of this year, output from Britain's paper and board mills was 11 per cent down on the corresponding period last year, according to the paper and board industry's Association.

Imports of paper and board were lower by 31,800 metric tons and overall consumption was down by 211,700 tons (or 9 per cent).

British production for the first third of the year amounted to 4,177,200 metric tons compared with 4,661,900 tons a year ago. Output of food wrapping paper, newsprint, and of printing and writing paper was lower, but on the other hand household, toilet, paper, and tissue production increased by 7,700 tons, and board for industrial use also improved.

The industry's exports accounted for 5 per cent of total production and earned nearly £18 million. In spite of the overall fall in imports, 7,000 tons more coated printing and writing paper and 2,200 tons more coated folding board entered the country.

The association also publishes today the results of a survey of trends among its members. This confirmed recent all-industry surveys of capital expenditure and indicated that 54 per cent of paper mills and 48 per cent of board mills expected to spend less on plant and machinery during the next year.

Textile research aid in doubt

By WILLIAM PILKINGTON

Big changes are in prospect in the conditions in which the Lancashire textile industry works. From the beginning of next year imports of cotton goods from Commonwealth countries will no longer be subject to quantitative restrictions and from the beginning of 1973, membership of the Common Market is likely to begin.

In the circumstances it would be reasonable to expect the industry to wish to retain any institution or any procedure which could increase its competitive strength and to miss no opportunity of adopting others.

It appears, however, that it has decided to discontinue its own organisation which has done it good service and that it is hesitating to reach a decision on the future of two others.

Many traders still consider that the decision to dissolve the Textile Council was ill advised.

especially as it raised the question of the future of four activities which have benefited from the levy which it was authorised to collect.

With no statutory levy to provide funds the Textile Centre in London is to be closed down, the industry having shown itself unwilling to support it financially beyond the life of the Council.

The good work done by the Centre and its predecessor, the Colour Design and Style Centre in Manchester, in promoting the use of Lancashire textiles thus appears to have been inadequately reorganised by the industry and its abrupt end is to be regretted.

By deciding to continue to support the Colour Design and Style Centre the industry has shown that sometimes, at any

rate, it knows a good thing when it sees one.

Fielden House, with its highly competent and enthusiastic staff, has done much to ensure that personnel at all levels, from the factory floor to the boardroom, could keep pace with the rapid advances both in technology and in management techniques through its training and consultancy services. As the future of the centre has already been settled it is difficult to understand the continued uncertainty about the Council's economic and statistical services and about the Shirley Institute.

A statistical service was started over 40 years ago and the Research Association was founded in 1919, long before the Cotton Board was formed and given statutory power to

collect a levy for research and other purposes. The industry, having had the benefit of these two institutions for so long, should not need to hesitate before deciding that they must be maintained.

If the firms in the industry did not vary in size as widely as they do now the delays and uncertainties would probably not have arisen. Small and medium sized firms have no doubts about the value of central research, statistical, promotional, and other activities and are prepared to contribute towards their costs. But the influence of these firms is now small compared with that of the big groups.

Because of the great size to which they have grown the groups are called upon to provide a very large proportion of the funds raised by the industry for cooperative centralised activities.

CITY COMMENT

LIFE ASSURANCE Equity and Law and order

THE LIFE Offices Association should decide today at its meeting whether or not to demand the resignation of one of its oldest members, the Equity and Law. The crisis was precipitated six months ago when Equity and Law gave six months' notice that from July 1 it would cease to be bound by the LOA's rules preventing the payment of commission on indemnity terms.

It would be a mistake to dismiss the Equity and Law issue as an internal squabble. The decision the association takes on this question will affect not only its status and strength, but also the way life assurance is sold throughout Britain.

The Equity and Law has decided that it wants to be free to pay its life assurance commission to selected insurance brokers, in advance of the receipt of premiums. This is expressly forbidden by the LOA, at first sight seems a trivial matter, examine the implications.

Equity and Law says it needs this freedom in order to compete with rapidly growing firms outside the LOA which are not bound by its rules.

But the LOA justifies the restrictions partly on the grounds that a broker who knows he will be better paid for selling one insurance policy rather than another will be tempted to put his profit above the interests of the purchaser.

The force of this argument is now stronger than in earlier years because many more insurance brokers and insurance agencies have set up their own direct selling forces.

These sales forces are not infrequently staffed by individuals whose knowledge of insurance is negligible, if not non-existent, who are paid on a commission-only basis, and whose ethical standards when they approach a prospect are sometimes governed only by the degree of their own greed.

In many cases these salesmen are employed on a part-time basis. The result of this type of broker-managed direct sales operation is that too often individuals buy policies which they later realise they do not want, or cannot afford, and surrender them, frequently there is no surrender value in the first two or three years after the policy has been taken out and therefore the high lapse or surrender rate does not emerge from the life assurance firm issuing the contract.

This, it is true, is painting the picture at its worst and there are numerous well managed and controlled broker sales forces. It can legitimately be argued, too, that the LOA commission agreement tends to inhibit the growth of firms not large enough to afford their own sales forces or to meet the advertising bills which would make them household names and so facilitate their growth.

Little of the argument about the Equity and Law's decision has been in public. To the outsider, however, it would seem that the LOA has been pushed into a corner. If it does not ask for the resignation of Equity and Law other members will decide to break those of its

regulations which they do not like, and the association will split at the seams.

It can be argued that some diminution in the influence of the LOA would be no bad thing provided life assurance legislation was strong enough to regulate the industry.

At present it is not and therefore the LOA members would be wise to stick together and refuse to allow the Equity and Law to both break ranks and maintain its membership.

Still, I would forgive the Department if it merely said it had some difficulty recognising the Stock Exchange from some of its own members' descriptions. Take that of Mr Graham H. Greenwell, senior partner of the firm that bears his name and a council member at the Exchange, in a letter to the "Times": "In essence," he said "both the Stock Exchange and the Baltic are private men's clubs, and not business institutions." The exchange, he went on to say, is not an institution which exists to perform a public service.

Mr Greenwell goes on probably rightly to point out that the Stock Exchange does not have an effective monopoly; but I would like to know what a private club which does not exist to perform a public service is doing with special dispensations in law.

Sir Martin Wilkinson, chairman of the Stock Exchange Council, and Graham Greenwell's son, Philip Greenwell, were quick to disown Mr Greenwell's outdated views, also in letters to the "Times". But it is precisely because a majority of members think like him that the exchange continues absurdly to vote against women.

It is only in this second sense that the cost of membership—the burden on the economy compared with the state affairs we enjoyed 18 months ago, when we were still a cheap food country—is reduced, and that burden remains heavy.

It is true in the sense that the "cost of going in" is the difference between costs inside Europe and those outside. It is also partly true in the sense that the cost of being a member of the Common Market is thereby reduced, since any farm surpluses can be sold in the world outside at a better price and at less cost to the community.

It is only in this second sense that the cost of membership—the burden on the economy compared with the state affairs we enjoyed 18 months ago, when we were still a cheap food country—is reduced, and that burden remains heavy. The fact that the cost of going in has risen: and when the argument is stated in this way there is a much reduced danger of any optimism about our prospects inside Europe. We will not solve our problems any quicker for living in a fools' paradise in which bad news is good news, and heavy burdens made to look light.

Europe in the looking glass

GOVERNMENT propaganda in the past few days has been displaying a ghoulish glee about the rise in world food prices because "this reduces the cost of going into Europe. That is true in strict logic, but not the less misleading for that."

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Review of properties

Associated Newspapers is making a major reassessment of the use of its properties, according to chairman Mr Vere Harcourt. In his annual statement with the company's accounts, Mr Harcourt says that no details of the plans will be available until his annual report next year. But in the meantime he says that together with Reuters, informal application has been made to the authorities for the redevelopment of the group's 100,000 square foot leasehold interest on the "South Bank of the Thames."

But Mr Barber will not let the stage to himself today. Mr John Davies, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, is expected to make a statement on the British Steel Corporation's investment programme this year. Its financial targets, pricing policies, and the timing of some activities—subject which are already the source of several bitter political and economic arguments.

Tomorrow the clearing bank figures for deposits, loans, assets, Cotton and Wool of June will be released, and on Friday sterling area gold and convertible currency reserves at the end of June will be announced.

The company results last

1971 sees a big drop in strikes

By JOHN TORODE, Labour Correspondent

A dramatic shift in the nation's strike pattern is confirmed in this month's Department of Employment "Gazette."

The number of strikes has dropped significantly over the past year. The number of workers involved in disputes has fallen, although far less sharply. Even so, the number of days lost is soaring.

There are several interpretations of what is happening. One theory is that, in a period of recession and rising unemployment, men are less inclined to stop work "frivolously." But if they do join battle they fight on with grim determination.

Another view is that Conservative policies have led to a series of national set-piece confrontations between one major group after another. Dismen, miners and postmen are obvious examples.

In the first five months of 1971 there were 958 strikes involving 545,700 workers.

Some 10,397,000 days were lost between January and May 1970 there were 1,986 strikes involving 784,600 workers. But only 4,040,000 days were lost.

The trend is apparent in all sections of industry. But motor manufacture and transportation and communications (including postal services) point up the situation.

In motor manufacture 102 strikes so far this year have led to 2,232,000 days lost. In the first five months of last year 174 strikes meant only 456,000 days lost. In transport and communications 52 strikes this year cost the nation 5,326,000 working days. A year earlier 178 strikes caused the loss of only 329,000 days.

Prager's wife not 'a spy'

By our own Reporter

Mrs Jana Prager, the wife of the RAF corporal sentenced for 12 years for spying last week, denied last night statements printed in the "People" newspaper that she had been a spy as well. She told a BBC reporter: "I can assure you I am not a spy."

She claimed that she asked the newspaper: "If I said something like this (referring to her confession) how much would I get? I wanted to get the money. It sounds terrible, I wanted to help my husband. I believe 100 per cent that he is innocent too."

Mrs Prager called for a retrial to prove her husband's innocence. "I thought the trial was terribly short," she said.

Earlier in the day, Mr Harold Soref, the Conservative MP for Ormskirk, said he had written to the Attorney-General asking what action he would take over Mrs Prager's alleged confession.

Mrs Prager left her home in Rotherham on June 12, two days before her husband's trial began. In her interview with the "People" she explained that she had been afraid that her husband would try to commit suicide, and did not wish to be blamed for it.

In her "confession," made in Vienna, Mrs Prager said that she had photographed RAF documents which her husband had brought home, and had passed them to two Czech agents. She claimed that she had received no money, but had been paid in the form of holidays for herself and her children.

During his trial Mr Nicholas Prager said that he feared that his wife was a spy. But in his summing-up, the Lord Chief Justice Lord Widgery said that there was not a shred of evidence that she had been.

A spokesman for the Austrian Embassy said last night: "There is an extradition treaty between Britain and Austria. But it would be impossible to say immediately whether that would cover the terms of this particular case."

Mr Bob Edwards, editor of the "People," said last night that there was no financial inducement to Mrs Prager to confess to spying. By arrangement with her legal adviser, the paper obtained the story exclusively, but it was not known that she would confess to spying.

Mrs Castle is said to be hopeful that she will be able to persuade the national executive to allow a resolution along these lines to go before the conference coupled with a demand for a general election on the whole field of Tory policy. Yet another variant on the same theme would seek to place a document along these lines before the delegates and ask them to endorse it.

Still another idea being pressed on party leaders is that the document should, in a recognisable anti-Market tone of voice, draw attention to important features of the terms of entry which have been laid on one side in the negotiations until after Britain's accession. The conference could be invited to instruct the Shadow Cabinet to press for further detailed assurances on these issues, and to declare that the full party conference in October should be asked to make its decision for or against entry in the light of the Government's response.

There is not much doubt that all these proposals deserve, to a greater or lesser degree, to be frankly appalled by the risks facing the party if the Market issue is allowed to rip.

Many MPs accept that neither Mr Wilson's nor Mr Jenkins's dilemma can be overcome without some fudging of the issue. For the terms obtained by Mr Rippon and the Government might well have been acceptable to other Labour Ministers besides the passionately European Mr George Thomson—perhaps (it is whispered) even to Mr Wilson.

Family expense rose by 8pc

By JOHN TORODE.

The average family of three spent £28.57 a week, last year, on goods and services. This is an increase of £2.20 or 8 per cent on the figure for 1969, and an increase of £3.64 a week on the 1968 figure.

These figures are disclosed in the first part of the annual family expenditure survey published in this month's Department of Employment "Gazette." The table below gives a breakdown of family expenditure in 1968, 1969, and 1970.

In 1969, food took up 26.1 per cent of the household budget. Last year, it was down to 25.7 per cent.

A bigger proportion of family income went on housing, clothing, footwear, and household goods last year. But the proportion spent on fuel, light, power, transport, and tobacco dropped.

The largest item of expenditure last year was £7.35 a week on food. This was followed by transport and vehicles at £3.91, housing at £3.59, clothing and footwear at £2.64, and services (anything from cinema admissions to laundry bills) £2.53.

An increase of 15p a week in average expenditure on running and maintaining motor vehicles was the principal reason for the increase of 25p a week in the cost of transport and vehicles. An increase of 14p a week in average expenditure on eating out accounted for part of the 46p increase in spending on food.

The cost of women's clothing rose by 8p a week to 65p, and for men it was up 4p to 41p. Footwear cost the family 50p a week—an increase of 6p.

The "Gazette" also shows that in May the basic weekly rates of pay for 930,000 workers were increased at a cost of £1.64 millions. In April, 595,000 workers secured increases worth £900,000, and in March 1,365,000 workers secured increases totalling £660,000.

In the first five months of this year, the number who secured increases in basic rates—4,125,000—was significantly lower than the number—5,400,000—who secured increases in the same five months of last year.

"Department of Employment and Productivity Gazette," published by the Stationery Office, 35p.

	1968	1969	1970
Average weekly household expenditure			
Commodity or service			
Group total			
Housing	3.16	3.27	3.59
Fuel, light and power	1.55	1.75	1.79
Food	6.59	6.89	7.35
Alcoholic drink	1.03	1.13	1.27
Tobacco	1.29	1.25	1.37
Clothing	2.64	2.64	2.64
Durable household goods	1.61	1.66	1.85
Other goods	1.81	1.91	2.12
Transport and vehicles	3.27	3.66	3.91
Services	2.28	2.34	2.58
Miscellaneous	0.08	0.08	0.10
Total, all expenditure groups	24.93	26.37	28.57

Equity rejects general strike

A call for a general strike against the Industrial Relations Bill was defeated at a meeting of Equity, the actors' union yesterday.

Mr Corin Redgrave, brother of Vanessa, said Equity should urge the immediate reconvening of the TUC so that strike action could be implemented. Only a stand to defend the basic right to organise and to strike could ensure the livelihood of members facing theatre and studio closures, mass unemployment, and the degeneration of already inadequate working relations.

He said the only complaint he could so far pay the TUC was its decorum while it cut its own throat.

But Mr Gerald Crosswell, Equity's general secretary, said that the union move was the work of romantic revolutionaries, made out of sheer desperation.

He accused the left-wing movement of exaggerating the seriousness of the position. They were using the meeting as a political weapon to bring about the downfall of an elected government. The call for militant action was defeated by 214 votes to 141.

A call to nationalise the entertainment industry was rejected. The motion said that the entertainment industry was already



Spreading the gospel: a nun at the Reading jazz festival circulating notices of a church service. Picture by Peter Johns

Blackmail, MP says

Mr Leo Abse (Lab., Pontypool) claimed last night that political blackmail had stopped him making the Abortion Bill more restrictive. He said that attempts to reshape the Bill had failed.

"We failed because it was at that time that I was putting through the Homosexual Bill, and I was blackmailed to stop making the Abortion Bill more restrictive—because I wouldn't have got my Homosexual Bill through," Mr Abse said.

He added: "I have urged, with 250 other Members, that there should be a total review of the Abortion Act. It is an Act which came into existence without any thought. It came into existence because of the pressure of a particular lobby."

Details of the times at which the orbiting Russian space laboratory, Salyut, may be seen over Britain are included from today in the list of satellite predictions, to be found with the weather forecast.

The figures are supplied by the Radio and Space Research Station of the Science Research Council.

Mr Gorschuch said that 40 to 50 people had been treated for bad "trips." Most of these were caused by "very strong, very pure LSD," some of it slightly adulterated with strychnine, but at least two arose from a new amphetamine-based hallucinogen, TMA. "One was so bad that it took four men to hold him down," Mr Gorschuch said, but he thought fewer

Man shoots detective

continued from page one

pop festivals. Maybe this sort of thing will get worse every year. The police were marvellous—they even helped kids put up tents—but I don't know what the CID were up to."

Accounts of exactly what the CID was doing varied. Mr Somerville spent all weekend wearily denying reports that police were wearing hot pants. Police declined to say how many plainclothes detectives attended or what they were wearing, but pointed out that all drug arrests happened on the way to or from the festival. The only charges inside the festival were threatening behaviour or theft.

But an ADE organiser said: "That is bullshit. Police were coming dressed scruffily like us and searching people all over. We had one kid come into the tent half an hour ago, who was hushed for smoking on the campsite."

Mr Gorschuch said that 40 to 50 people had been treated for bad "trips." Most of these were caused by "very strong, very pure LSD," some of it slightly adulterated with strychnine, but at least two arose from a new amphetamine-based hallucinogen, TMA. "One was so bad that it took four men to hold him down," Mr Gorschuch said, but he thought fewer

drugs were circulating than usual at a festival, partly thanks to police activity.

Mr Somerville was probably right to argue that headlines about drugs and arrests falsified the majority experience of this festival. The main experiences, in order, were—mud, cold, music, hot dogs, and more mud. Most of the 600 private tents would have horrified a boy scout. Pitched on a low-lying meadow just across the Thames from the riverside dachas of the Reading upper middle class, they were mostly made from cellophane bags pinned together. One consisted of three yards of black PVC moored by bricks. Couples slept huddled together under cellophane islands of dry grass, among the

rutts and quagmires of the concert site. But as rain started again last night, 18,000 young people were still listening to music.

● Villagers at Duddleswell, near Uckfield, Sussex, are strongly opposed to plans to hold pop festivals on a 20-acre field beside Ashdown Forest. Mrs Joyce Harrison, a widow aged 43, wants to hold a festival at her Whitehouse Farm on August 7, and another in September.

A group known as Tunbridge Wells Arts Lab is planning to organise the first festival to raise money to build a centre. They anticipate something like 10,000 people attending. Mrs Harrison has 15 children and several of them are members of the Arts Lab.

RAF helicopter. The fourth was rescued by a passing motor boat.

The rescue launch was keeping an eye on yachts from Bognor Regis Yacht Club when a wave caught it and swamped it.

Julia Widdowson, of Greffins, Wey, Great Buckham, Leatherhead, Surrey, was rescued semi-conscious from rough seas in a sailing accident yesterday off Angmering-on-Sea, Sussex after she had been thrown into the sea when a sailing dinghy she was in with her father—over-

turned.

Father missing after boat is swamped

Mr James George, aged 36, of Nicholsfield, Harlow, Essex, was missing last night after a small motor boat had been swamped in Harwich harbour.

His three children, aged between six and 12, were rescued by a passing yacht.

The family were on holiday at Bradfield, near Harwich.

Four lifeguards in a yacht club's rescue launch were themselves rescued yesterday when their launch was swamped by a heavy sea off Bognor Regis. Three of them were rescued by

RAF helicopter. The fourth was rescued by a passing motor boat.

The rescue launch was keeping an eye on yachts from Bognor Regis Yacht Club when a wave caught it and swamped it.

Julia Widdowson, of Greffins, Wey, Great Buckham, Leatherhead, Surrey, was rescued semi-conscious from rough seas in a sailing accident yesterday off Angmering-on-Sea, Sussex after she had been thrown into the sea when a sailing dinghy she was in with her father—over-

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Four lifeguards in a yacht club's rescue launch were themselves rescued yesterday when their launch was swamped by a heavy sea off Bognor Regis. Three of them were rescued by

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Cabinet to clam down on spies

By PETER HARVEY

The Government is set to begin a campaign to whittle down the number of foreign agents working Britain under diplomatic cover. The security services are completing a long investigation into the problem for the Foreign Secretary, and a dossier is expected to reach him within the month.

The report—which covers activities of "trade" information, and "diplomatic" of about a dozen embassies, expected to lead to the Government asking a number of tries to reduce the number of their officials here.

Britain has long regarded as "easy" so far control over the staffing of foreign embassies is under the Government must have no doubt that it has been used to advancing many countries which stationed skilled communications and military espionage a here under diplomatic cover.

In the Commons recently Heath said that Sir Douglas-Home would be in as soon as possible on a mission to reduce the number of working from embassies.

Agents

Sir Alec and Mr M ordered the investigation months ago after MPs had pressed concern at the increase in the number of working here. Similar concerns were also expressed by the security services. Two teams of security of working with Scotland's Special Branch, were ordered to investigate the situation provide the Foreign Secretary with "the complete picture" of the complete picture operating in this way and many people are concerned.

It has been learned, many embassies—and not Eastern European, sources last night—have espied agents working, or based, most operate as trade or commercial officials, but some other cover. Identifying such agents, information, and service staff, and travel agents are believed to be named in the report.

Embassy staffs account in some cases—only a handful of a nation's accredited staffs. Scores more work official trade and commercial delegations and promotional partnerships with tourism organisations, shipping companies, and gauda departments.

The activities of all of it is understood, are covered the security services' report.

Cloudy, some rain

THE WEATHER

AROUND BRITAIN

Reports for the 24 hours ended 6 p.m. on Saturday:

	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
Max.	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Min.	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Wind	SW	SW	SW	SW	SW	SW	SW
Cloud	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Reports for the 24 hours ended 6 p.m. yesterday:

	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
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Wind	SW	SW	SW	SW	SW	SW	SW
Cloud	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

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Min.	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Wind	SW	SW	SW	SW	SW	SW	SW
Cloud	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

AROUND THE WORLD

(Lunch-time reports)

	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
Max.	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Min.	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Wind	SW	SW	SW	SW	SW	SW	SW
Cloud	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

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	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
Max.	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Min.	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Wind	SW	SW	SW	SW	SW	SW	SW
Cloud	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

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